

How to read your water meter

Verifying your water bill is as easy as checking your water meter. Here's how to read a typical home water meter.

Locate your water meter

Locate the water meter on your property. It's usually located inside your home – check your basement or utility closet. Depending on what type you have, reading it will vary:

Mechanical Meter

- **Dial:** The dial will rotate when water passes through the meter. One full rotation of the dial equals one gallon of water.
- **Odometer:** The odometer records total water use in a similar way as the odometer in your car records miles driven. The water meter odometer records water use in gallons and displays as follows: The digits from right to left represent one gallon, 10 gallons, 100 gallons, and so on. Like a car odometer, the water meter odometer cannot be altered.



Digital Meter

- **To Read:** There are nine digits/bars on the Severn Trent/Elster/Sensus iPERL meter at the top of the digital display. Only the first four numbers at the far left will be programmed in 1,000 gallons and read for billing.



How to monitor your water use

The following steps will show you how to determine how much water you use over a period of time.

1. Read the odometer and write it down completely. Then write down the date you read it. After a period of days (we suggest seven days), read the odometer again and write it down and write down the date.
2. Subtract the first reading from the second reading. This is your water use in gallons during the period.
3. Divide the water use in gallons by the number of days between readings. This is your average gallons per day during the period.