

How to Read Your Water Meter

This tutorial includes a description of our water meters and a procedure for how to read yours. Please take a few minutes to get familiar with your meter. Water is one of our most important natural resources, and water meters help track its consumption.

Water Meter Description

Treasure Island water meters read in gallons (see figure 1). The meters have six odometer-style digits that, from the left, provide the millions down to the tens readings and a blue "static 0" placeholder for the ones reading. Thus our meters can display up to 9,999,999 gallons before turning over to 0 gallons. The red sweep hand goes around once for every 10 gallons. It points to the ones digit in your reading.

The small pinwheel in the center of the meter is a leak detector. It spins to record small volumes of water typical of leaks. If it is moving and everything in your plumbing system is shut off, then there is a leak in your water line or plumbing system.



Figure 1. Current reading: 1,861,343 gallons

Our water meters were installed between 2012 and 2016 and are thus between six and ten years old. They were manufactured by Master Meter.

Except for two water meters that were installed more recently by PUD 1, our water meters read in gallons. The meters installed by PUD 1 read in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals 7.48 gallons).

Our water meters have a serial number on the protective cap (see figure 2).



Figure 2. Protective meter cap showing serial number 10041813

Reading Your Water Meter

To read your water meter:

1. Locate the water box that houses your water meter and water connection.
The water box is generally in the island right-of-way and in a direct line from your house. If you are unsure if you are reading the correct water meter for your property, send the meter serial number in email to the Water Commissioner (ticcwater2@gmail.com) for confirmation.
2. Flip open the meter observation flap or, in some cases, remove the water box top.
Depending on when your meter was last read, you might need to remove debris around the water meter, clean the meter face with a rag, and lift up the protective cap.
3. Starting on the left, your meter reading consists of all of the odometer-style digits except for any leading 0's plus the number the red sweep hand is pointing to for the ones digit.
Round down when the sweep hand rests between numbers. If one of the odometer-style digits isn't fully displayed, round down. For example, in figure 3 below, the last two numbers in the reading are 83.
4. Close the meter flap and replace the water box top if you removed it.



Figure 3. Current reading: 46,683 gallons

Important Don't forget to include the ones digit in your reading.

Getting Involved

Our water meters are read quarterly. Normally usage data is not provided to property owners unless it is well above the island average or a customer leak is suspected. However, you can request usage data at any time by sending email to the Water Commissioner.

You can track your own usage data by reading your meter on about the same day each month and recording the reading on a calendar.

A rule of thumb on usage for full-time households with three members is about 400 gallons per day. This is a year-round figure that accounts for lower usage in the winter and higher usage in the summer. Usage for part-time residents depends on the amount of time spent on the island and the number of guests.

By applying conservation measures, you can lower your average daily water usage.

More Information

For more information, see the following documents on the TICC website. Links are on the Water tab:

- [How to Shut Off Your Water at the Water Meter](#)
- [Homeowner's Guide to Leak Detection](#)
- [Conservation and Protection Tips](#)