



# Meet Your Meter

## How to Read Your Water Meter

All EBMUD customers have their water use measured by a meter. This results in each customer paying their share of operating the system based on the amount of water used since the last billing.

All EBMUD meters measure water in cubic feet (one cubic foot equals seven and a half gallons). EBMUD charges for the amount of water consumed based on the number of units of 100 cubic feet (748 gallons) that you use, as shown by the meter.

There are two basic types of water meters, the straight-reading meter which resembles the mileage-indicator in an automobile speedometer (see Figure 1), and the round-reading meter which has several separate dials (see Figure 2).

## Straight-Reading Meter

EBMUD currently installs this type of meter, largely because it is easy to read. In Figure 1, the reading is taken from the figures shown under the words "cubic feet." The meter reads 008171, which is the total number of cubic feet of water recorded since

the meter was installed. Because our charge is based on units of 100 cubic feet, the meter reader disregards the last two figures, and records a reading of 81 units. If you used 1200 cubic feet of water over the following billing period, the next meter reading would be 08171 plus 1200 equals 09371, or 93 units. Your bill thus would be based on the difference between the two readings: 12 units (8976 gallons).

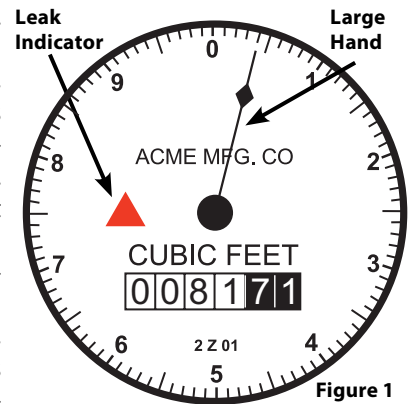


Figure 1

The large hand is used only for testing purposes and leak detection. Newer meters also have a small triangle that is usually red or blue, that spin when water is used. They are sensitive and can even detect small water drops that are leaking.

## Round-Reading Meter

The round meter has several small dials in a circle, and is a little more difficult to read. The dials are marked off in ten divisions, and are read much like a clock, except that the hand on every other dial turns counterclockwise. To tell which way any one hand goes, look to see which way the numbers are printed around the face of the dial.

In figure 2, to check the readings, start with the "100,000" dial, and the readings are 8, 0, 6, 3, and 2 or 80,632 cubic feet—806 units of 100 cubic feet. If you were to use 13 more units by the next time your meter was checked, the reading would be 819 units. The last 3 dials are not read (100, 10, 1 ft). The "One-Foot" dial is to show that the meter is functioning and for testing purposes. Sometimes this dial is blank.

By following these directions, you should be able to read your meter accurately. There

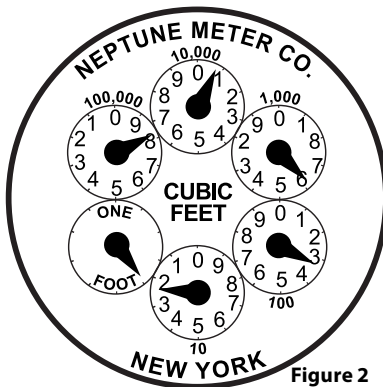


Figure 2

are many variations in meters within the EBMUD system, so be sure you check which way each dial is turning when you make a reading.

If you need help in reading your meter, or if you have questions or comments regarding your water bill or water service, please feel free to call EBMUD customer service.

## Read your meter between EBMUD bills

Reading a meter is quite simple. Write down the cubic feet of water and the date of your read. Because EBMUD's charge is based on units of 100 cubic feet, the meter reader discards the last three numbers (the ones with the black background on the the Straight-Reading meter and discard the 100 feet, 10 feet and one foot dials on the Round-Reading meter). Come back the following day (week, month) and see how much the dial(s) have moved. Write that number down and subtract your initial reading from your second reading. 1 unit equals 748 gallons.

Example: your initial reading is 701 units on October 1; a week later (October 8) the reading is 705. Subtract 701 from 705 and that equals 4 units. So in a week the premises have used 4 units of water or 2,992 gallons of water. If you divide that into days of the read (4 days) that means you used 427 gallons per day.