

Water Meter and Pipe Information

The City uses radio read meters that send the reading back electronically virtually eliminating any room for human error. Here are some simple steps for checking your water meter for billing accuracy and to help find leaks:

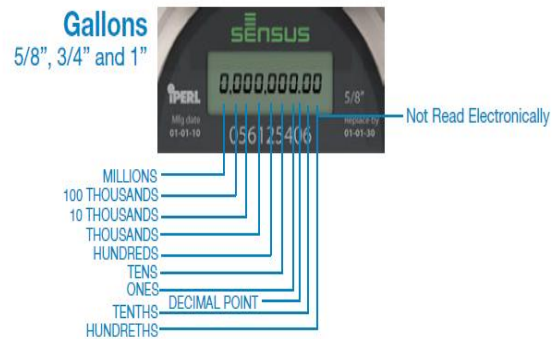
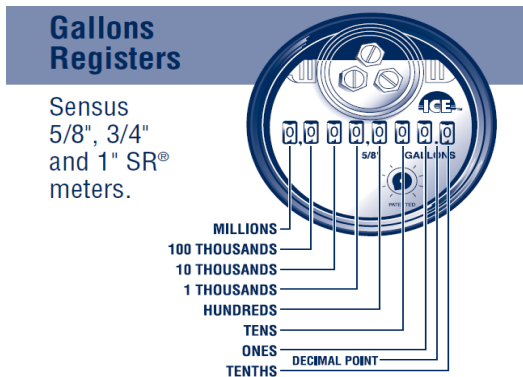
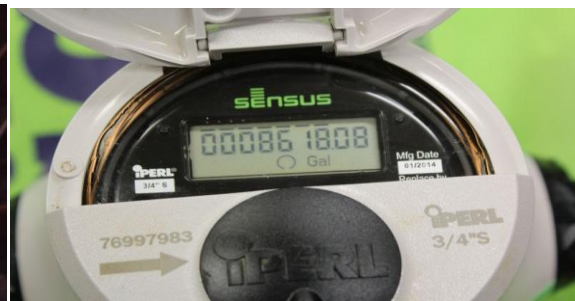
Where is my water meter?

Meters are normally in your front yard near the street. It could also be in the back yard or side yard. Look for a black plastic lid on the ground. Remove the lid carefully not to damage the transmitter wiring and expose the meter



How do I read my meter?

Your water meter gauge looks similar to one of these shown below. The City reads the meter from the left to the right and bill by gallons per thousand. To read your meter record all numbers from left to right to the thousands



How can I tell if I have leaks?

Checking for a leak can be done by making sure all water faucets and fixture have been turned off. You then need to watch the red leak detector on the gauge for movement. If water is passing through the meter the red indicator will move. This might take several minutes of watching to determine if a leak is present. Some leaks are intermittent and may not be present all of the time. Toilet leaks are the most common leaks and can often be silent. Often residents are surprised by these leaks because they can't hear the toilet running. To check for a toilet leak place 5-10 drops of food coloring in the rear tank of the toilet and wait thirty minutes. If the food coloring shows up in the bowl you have a leak. Another common problem with toilets is an improperly adjusted chain that leads from the flush handle to the flapper. Any debris under the flapper can cause the toilet to run. It is good practice to clean the tank annually and replace the flapper every 4-5 years. Another method of quickly checking for fixture leaks is to remove your sewer clean out cap and watch for water flow with a flash light. If you see flow and are not using water then you likely have a plumbing fixture leaking. If you have no flow in the clean out and the meter is still turning then you likely have a leak in the crawlspace, slab, or your line from the meter to the house. If you have a digital gauge your leak detector will be a circle at the bottom of the display. A flashing + on the screen indicates you have a positive flow of water running through the meter. Digital display leak detector is shown in the example below



Meter Accuracy

The City tests hundreds of meters each year to issue accuracy. Meters must be within 3% of 100% accuracy, according to Lawton City Code, or they are replaced. Meters are designed to last 15-20 years.

How can I check calibration of my water meter?

If you are questioning the accuracy of the water meter, there is a test that you can perform to check this. Perform the following steps:

*** TO ENSURE TEST ACCURACY, PLEASE PERFORM THE FOLLOWING STEPS BEFORE BEGINNING TEST***

- Make sure that no water is being used at the time of the test (i.e. dishwasher, shower, faucet, toilet running etc.)
- Empty a 1 gallon container of water into the 5 gallon empty bucket 5 times and mark the top of the water level with a black permanent marker to determine exact level for 5 gallons of water in the bucket. Empty the bucket; and you are now ready to begin the test.

1. Run water from the hose bib until the ones digit on the meter gauge is at "0." Have one person stationed at the meter to monitor the ones digit.

2. Place an empty 5 gallon bucket underneath the outside hose bib, making sure that it is on level ground.

3. Fill the bucket to the 5-gallon level and shut the water off.

4. The ones digit on the meter gauge should now be located on the "5" representing 5 gallons of water has passed through the meter.

If after you have completed the test and you still have questions or concerns; please feel free to contact our office for further assistance at 580.581.3333

What to do during freezing temps?

Preparing pipes for freezing weather - When temperatures drop below freezing, the water in your pipes can freeze. Frozen water expands which can burst pipes and cause extensive damage to your home.

FOR FREEZING WEATHER: Let hot and cold water drip slowly from inside faucets during a hard freeze; open cabinet doors under sinks on outside walls; wrap all exposed pipes located outside or in unheated areas of your home, including the attic ; drain and remove garden hoses from outside faucets; insulate outdoor faucets with hard foam covers or wrap with cloth; if you have a pier and beam foundation, cover vents around the foundation of your home; placing several towels covered by a floor mat over the meter box will also help during a hard freeze. Learn where your residential water cut-off valves are and how to operate them in case of an emergency.

What do I do if I damage my meter?

If you damage your meter, call the City to report it. Most damage to the meter box or reading equipment is caused by vehicle traffic and mowers. It is the account holder's responsibility to mow around and not drive over the meter box, fire plugs, gas meters, etc. in the yard to help avoid damage. If damage occurs, it may be at the homeowner's expense.