

## Two Important Fine Points

1. On the first screen, look in the upper left hand corner. If you see nothing, that's a good sign! But...

- If you see a tiny water faucet picture, that means water has been flowing all the time for the past 24 hours, which strongly suggests you have a leak.
- If you see a tiny water faucet flashing on and off, that means water has flowed half the time or more for the past 24 hours. That suggests a very small leak or a cranky toilet.

2. Stopping wasteful leaks is a very good thing. But you'll have to decide if fixing a tiny leak is worth your expense and effort. If you'd like to discuss this with us, please do call. We also have a leaflet called "Might Have A Leak? What Now?!"



City of Bonney  
Lake  
Public Works  
Water Department  
253-447-4302

For billing questions, please contact Utilities Billing at 253-447-4318

## How To Find And Check Your Water Meter

City Of Bonney Lake Public Works  
Water Department



Meter Location (In The Ground)

253-447-4302 City of Bonney Lake Public Works, Water  
Department

## Getting At The Meter

Try lifting the lid of the meter box using your hands and a screwdriver or a similar tool. If the lid's on tight, it's okay to pull hard, but don't strain your back.

If you see nothing but dirt inside your meter box, there's no need to worry. It's normal. Probably, industrious moles have filled the box. Using your hands or a trowel, gently dig out some of the dirt. Take care not to break the glass on the meter dial.

To reach your meter, you shouldn't have to dig down more than a foot, usually much less. Your meter is about the size of a clenched fist and is mounted on pipes.

The mechanical workings inside your meter are made according to a decade's-old, simple design. They function like a tiny water wheel, and they spin a magnet.

The meter dial is the part you can read. Its design is modern and digital. The dial counts pulses from the spinning magnet and translates that data into cubic feet.

## Reading The Dial

If there's a plastic dial cover, flip it open. A tiny solar collector powers the dial. Once exposed to light, the dial should take about ten seconds to power up. It should display meaningless numbers while it does this. If nothing at all happens, it may need more light. Try shining a flashlight on it.

Once powered up, two screens will take turns appearing on the dial.

- The first screen will be completely full of numbers. It gives the amount of cubic feet of water the meter has measured since we installed it. (In this it's like the odometer on your car.) If you have water running on purpose, or if you have a leak, you'll see the numbers getting higher.



- We bill you for each hundred cubic feet (about 750 gallons) of water you use. Read the first four numerals from the left. For example 075306.372 would be read "0753."

- The second screen will be half full of numbers and will say "rate." This gives the water flow rate in cubic feet per minute. If you have water running, or a leak, you'll see something higher than zero on this screen.



- For example a RATE screen showing 0.020 would read .02 cubic feet per minute.
- Note: watch the flow-rate screen for half a minute, through several cycles of taking turns with the first screen. If the screen shows zeroes a few times and then shows a higher number, it suggests a very tiny leak. (This happens because meters only show water flows of a certain minimum size.)

You can call us with any questions!

City of Bonney Lake  
Public Works  
Water Department  
253-447-4302

## Two Important Fine Points

1. On the front of the meter screen, look in the middle left hand side, you will see a triangle or star like dial, if it is not turning and all water is turned off in the house, that is a good sign! But...

- If you see it turning that means water is flowing through the meter, which strongly suggests you have a leak.
- If you see water around the meter box or in the meter box, that is a sign that the leak is close. If the leak indicator (triangle or star) is not turning please call the water division and the City will make the repairs. If the leak indicator dial is turning this could indicate a very small leak on your side of the service or a cranky toilet.

2. Stopping wasteful leaks is a very good thing. But you'll have to decide if fixing a tiny leak is worth your expense and effort. If you'd like to discuss this with us, please do call. We also have a pamphlet called

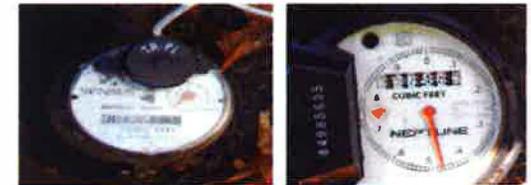


City of Bonney  
Lake  
Public Works  
Water Division  
253-447-4320

For billing questions, please contact Utilities Billing at 253-447-4317

## How To Find And Check Your Touch Read or Manual Read Water Meter

City Of Bonney Lake Public Works  
Water Division



### Meter Location

Meters are located in a concrete or plastic box with either a metal, plastic or concrete lid. Usually located at the front corner of your lot. Your meter reader has marked your meter with either blue paint or a blue flag.

253-447-4320 City of Bonney Lake Public Works, Water Division

## Getting At The Meter

Try lifting the lid of the meter box using your hands and a screwdriver or a similar tool. If the lid's on tight, it's okay to pull hard, but don't strain your back.

If you see nothing but dirt inside your meter box, there's no need to worry. It's normal. Probably, industrious moles have filled the box. Using your hands or a trowel, gently dig out some of the dirt. Take care not to break the glass on the meter lens.

To reach your meter, you shouldn't have to dig down more than a foot, usually much less. Your meter is about the size of a clenched fist and is mounted on pipes.

The mechanical workings inside your meter are made according to a decade's-old, simple design. They function like a tiny water wheel, and they spin a magnet or gears and translates that data into cubic feet.

The meter dial is the part you can read. It is designed to read the first four numbers. The dial counts pulses from the spinning magnet or gears and translates that data into cubic feet.

## Reading The Dial

If there's a plastic or metallic dial cover with the meter ID Number on it, flip it open. You may have to clean the lens in order to see the dial (numbers.) On some of the models such as Neptune or Sensus models there will be a wire attached to the meter and the meter box lid. (Please be careful removing the lid as to not break or damage the wires.)

## Types of Meters

These three meters are types of water meters that are in our system and you will have one of them. These meters will be changed out in the future to the new radio read meters. On all of the Cities water meters we only read the first four numbers left to right (3138) on the meter register. In example #1 on the meters there are leak indicators, on illustration (1.) Precision Meter: it will be the silver wheel; on illustration (2.) Sensus Meter: it will be the black triangle; and illustration (3.) Neptune Meter: will be the red triangle. If these are not moving that is a good thing, if it is turning continuously that indicates a leak. Note that they may move back and forth do to pressure fluctuations in the water system.

**You can call us with any questions!**

**City of Bonney Lake**

**Public Works**

**Water Division**

**253-447-4320**



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## Getting It Fixed

Even a tiny leak wastes a lot of water and money. Consider the costs and what you will do.

If you choose to fix a leak or replace a supply pipe, you could do the work yourself. Many helpful books and internet resources are available.

You also could hire a plumber. We can't recommend specific plumbers, but we do suggest calling and questioning several. Ask how they'd go about investigating and fixing any problem. Ask how they'd determine what to charge you. Request references. You also could ask people you know and trust if they can recommend a good plumber.

## The Best of Luck to You!

Please call us at 253-447-4302 if you need us to shut off your water so plumbing repairs can be made. We'll return to restore service when the work is done.



**CITY OF BONNEY LAKE  
PUBLIC WORKS  
WATER DEPARTMENT  
253-447-4302**

**For billing related questions, please contact  
Utilities Billing at 253-447-4318**

**CITY OF BONNEY LAKE**

**Public Works Water Department**

## Might Have A Leak? What Now?!



**City Of Bonney Lake Public Works Water  
Department 253-447-4302**

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## Getting Started

We aren't plumbers and cannot pinpoint or fix your leaks. But we can offer suggestions. The first steps you could take are fairly easy.

Start by reading your meter. Turn off all faucets and water-using appliances. Then read your meter to note any signs of a leak. (See our "How To Find And Check Your Water Meter" leaflet)

## Narrowing The Search

If possible, isolate part of your plumbing to focus your leak search.

Here's how: Determine if you have a house valve that shuts off all water flow. Look in your garage, utility room, crawl space, or basement. If you do find a house valve, turn it clockwise as far as it will go.

Then recheck your water meter. If any water flow you observed earlier has stopped, suspect a leak beyond the shut-off valve. If earlier flow hasn't stopped, suspect a leak between the meter and the valve.

Also, if you have an irrigation system, shut it off to isolate it. Then recheck your meter. If water

flow you saw earlier has stopped, that suggests a leaking irrigation line.

## Pinpointing The Leak

Begin by searching leak locations that are fairly easy to check. Try:

- Your toilet.
- Refrigerator ice maker lines
- Exposed pipes in your crawl space or basement
- Your hot water heater
- In-ground irrigation system control boxes.
- Ponds or fountains with automatic refill mechanisms.
- In-ground water shut-off valves. Look near your water meter for a round lid about eight inches across. If you do find one, check underneath it for a leaky valve.
- Outdoor faucets
- Damp or moldy spots on a wall or floor.
- Wet ground, or lush, healthy grass in otherwise brown lawn.

## Still Can't Find A Leak?

Look at your meter yet again to make sure it's still indicating a leak. If it is, a buried supply pipe may be the culprit.

Finding holes in supply pipes can be tricky. Generally, they are buried one to five feet down. Often but not always, they run straight from the meter to the house.

Leaks often occur where a supply pipe is attached to the water meter, an irrigation line, or your house plumbing. Or, in homes over 40 years old, you may have iron pipes that are rusting out. Iron pipes could rust out anywhere or even in several spots at once. Replacing the entire pipe could be the best option.

You could dig to look for leaks. If you do, please call 811 at least 2 days before digging so utilities companies can come check your area for underground lines. You could ask several plumbers how they'd look for your problem and then choose one plumber to hire.

**Questions? You can call Public Works at 253-447-4302**