How to Read Totalizing Flow Meters

Reading a water meter is similar to reading the odometer in your car. Reading your meter can help you identify leaks, track pumping costs, and discover ways to conserve water. To determine water use for a period of time between two meter readings, subtract the earlier reading from the later reading. (*Example: July 31 reading minus June 30 reading = amount of water used in July.*) Below are examples of two common types of meters.
If your meter does not look like these examples, contact the manufacturer or the meter installer for information.

Example 1: *Meter Face Shows Only Cumulative Volume—*
Totalizer Has 1 or 2 Fixed 0s as Place-holders + Sweep Hand Shows Amounts Represented by Zero Place-holders

Up to 9.9 units (ones and tenths) are read by sweep hand

1.0 unit

Up to 99 units (tens and ones) are read by sweep hand

10 units

Sweep hand here reads 0.8

Sweep hand here reads 89

Two Fixed 0s
Totalizer reads to nearest 100 units

One Fixed 0
Totalizer reads to nearest 10 units

1. Read totalizer (including all fixed "0"s) without adding decimal points
2. Then add amount shown by sweep hand

0	1	5	2	2	5	0

Totalizer reading: 0,152,250
Sweep hand reading: + 0.8
Amount: = 152,250.8 G
Unit of measurement = Gallons (G)

0	0	0	2	2	6	0	0

Totalizer reading: 00,022,600 (not quite to 700)
Sweep hand reading: + 89
Amount: = 22,689 G
Unit of measurement = Gallons (G)

Example 2: *Meter Face Shows Both Instantaneous Flow Rate and Cumulative Volume—*
Sweep Hand Shows Instantaneous Rate, and "Odometer-like" Totalizer Shows Cumulative Volume

Instantaneous Flow Rate

Sweep hand shows instantaneous flow rate around the dial from 0 to 2500 gallons per minute (showing 700+ gpm in this example). If water is not flowing, the sweep hand will show "0". Note: This rate of flow is separate, and <u>not</u> to be added to the totalizer reading.

Cumulative Volume

Totalizer shows cumulative water volume.

Multiplier to be applied to totalizer reading (0.001 in this example, but it could be 10, 100, 1,000, etc.)

Measurement unit (acre feet in this example, but it could be gallons, cubic feet, etc.) Note: The totalizer unit of volume measurement may be different from the unit of instantaneous flow rate.

0	0	3	2	5	5

Water Volume (read the totalizer numbers from left to right, without any decimal points)
Totalizer Reading: 003255
Multiplier: X 0.001
Amount: = 3.255 AF
Unit of measurement = Acre Feet (AF)