



What does my water meter do?

Your water meter tracks the gallons of water coming into your home from the City's water system and is used to determine two charges on your monthly utility bill:

- Your **water** charge is determined simply by the number of gallons recorded each month multiplied by the current rate per gallon.
- To determine your **sewer** charge, the City also takes the number of gallons your household used that month and then compares it with your February use, calculating the charge from whichever month was less. (This is because a lot of summer water use is outdoors and never enters the sewer system.)

For more information on these two water systems, see the back of this brochure.

UNDERSTANDING THE WATER & SEWER SYSTEMS

Water System: Clean water coming in

Every drop of water that runs out of your faucets, into your washing machine, or out of your sprinkler runs through a series of underground pipes and treatment processes before arriving at your house or apartment. The City engineers and maintains this system up to where the City's water main connects with the pipes coming from your house.

Sewer System: Used water going out

All the water that is flushed or runs down a drain in your home is taken out of your house through a different series of pipes called the sanitary sewer system. The City engineers and maintains this system from where the pipes coming from your house or building connect to the City's sewer main.



City of Hopkins

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Meet Your Water Meter

Important information that can save you money on your water bill



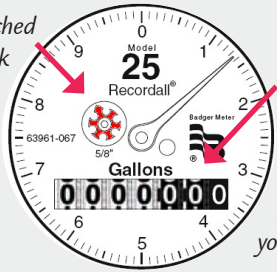
City of Hopkins

Inspire. Educate. Involve. Communicate.

Meet Your Meter

Water Meter Register

The red-notched dial is a leak detector.



The row of numbers is the meter reading register. The meter registers your use in gallons.

There are two main reasons to locate and know how to read your water meter:

Monitor your water use. Know how much water you use in a day by reading your meter at the beginning and end of the day and comparing the two totals. Likewise, you can check how much water you use watering the lawn, etc. by reading the meter before and after.

Check for leaks. Shut off all the taps in your house. Then take a look at your meter, and if the numbers on the register or the red-notched dial are turning, chances are you have a leak to find.

How does it work?

The water meter is comprised of the bronze meter base, register, and transponder. The transponder is a black circular device either attached to the register or mounted on a pipe with a wire coming from the bottom. The transponder transmits the meter reading via a radio signal.



The water meter and transponder need to be accessible to City staff with a 12-inch clear radius. (Hopkins City Code, Section 710.17 Subd 7)

Locate Your Master Water Supply Valve

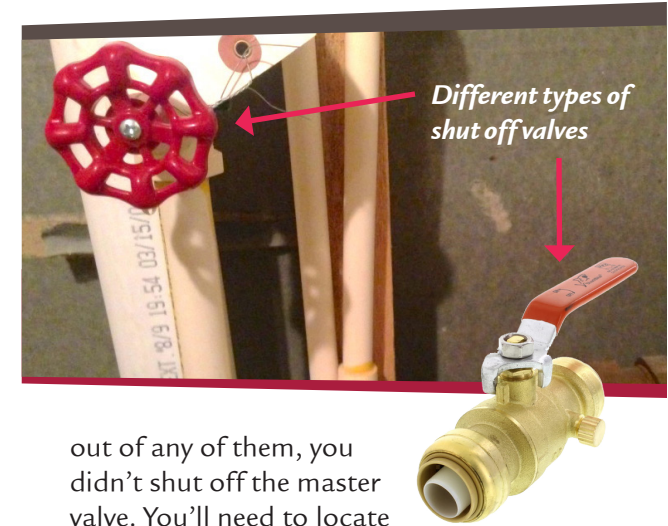
Do you know where the master water supply valve is located in your home? Does *everyone* in your household know where it is?

If there's an emergency, you'll need to know in a hurry. You can't afford to waste precious time searching, while the basement floods or the carpets get drenched.

Every home, apartment and business has a master water supply valve. These are the most likely locations:

- where the water supply enters your home.
- near your water meter.

To make sure that you have found the correct valve, try shutting it off briefly and then check all of the water faucets in the building, turning each one on to see if any water flows out. If water flows



out of any of them, you didn't shut off the master valve. You'll need to locate the valve, and try again.

Once you've found the correct valve, mark it with a tag, bright ribbon, or bright paint. Make it easy to see. If the worst happens, and we hope it never will, you'll have to shut it off quickly.

Water Conservation Tips

- 1 If the toilet handle frequently sticks in the flush position letting water run constantly, replace or adjust it.
- 2 Install a toilet displacement device to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush. (*DO NOT use a brick, because it can dissolve and the loose pieces can cause damage to the internal parts. Instead, place a one-gallon plastic jug of water into the tank to displace toilet flow or purchase a device available at most hardware stores designed for this purpose.*) Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts in the tank.
- 3 Consider purchasing a low-volume toilet that uses less than half the water older models use.
- 4 Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. One drop per second wastes 2700 gallons of water per year.
- 5 Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors. Replace your shower head with an ultra-low-flow version.
- 6 Clean vegetables in a pan filled with water rather than running water from the tap. Re-use the water that the vegetables are washed in for watering plants.
- 7 If you are a renter, it is important that you notify your landlord or apartment manager as soon as you notice any leaks.