

## Learn to Detect Leaks by Reading Your Water Meter

A water meter is the device that measures the volume of water use at your home or business. The City of Rohnert Park measures and bills your water consumption in 1 gallon increments.

**Locate your meter.** The meter is generally located in or near the sidewalk in front of the home or business and is housed in an underground concrete box marked “water.” Your meter box will probably look similar to the one at the right.



Remove the meter box lid using a large screwdriver or pliers. Visually examine the area around the meter to make sure there are no harmful insects or other animals.

The face of the meter will resemble a clock with an odometer. A complete sweep of the red hand represents 10 gallons of water. The red wagon-wheel or star shaped device, located left of center, is the low-flow indicator. The low-flow indicator will spin if any water is flowing through the meter. This indicator is used to detect leaks.

A typical meter in the City of Rohnert Park looks like this:



The low flow indicator is located here:

### To check for leaks, follow these steps:

Make sure there is no water being used inside or in the landscape (dishwasher, shower, irrigation, automatic ice-maker, swamp cooler, etc.). Watch the low-flow indicator (the red wagon-wheel or star shaped device, located left of center) to see if it moves. If the low flow indicator moves, you may have a leak.

Turn off the main water valve to the house or business and check the low-flow indicator again. If it has stopped, the leak is most likely inside or in the irrigation system. If it continues to turn, the leak is between the meter and your main water valve.

Fix the leak(s) promptly, then contact the City of Rohnert Park Utility Department to see if you qualify for a leak adjustment.

If you have any questions about reading your meter or using the low-flow indicator to check for leaks, please contact the City of Rohnert Park Utility Department at (707) 585-6750.