

## Do you know where your water meter is located?

If you do, and you are keeping the meter clear and accessible, we thank you for your cooperation in helping us to provide accurate readings of your water meter. If you don't know where your water meter is, read on for tips on finding it and keeping it clear and accessible for our meter readers.

Most residential meters are located on or near the property line that divides municipal and private property. Typically they are accessed through a rectangular concrete lid but some are accessed through a rectangular metal lid in the driveway. If you can't locate your meter because of overgrown vegetation, then try to find your neighbour's meter. Determine how far your neighbour's meter is from the road or sidewalk and use this measurement as a guide to finding your own meter.



Road driving surface may not be property line



meter Box in Lawn



Meter Box in Driveway  
With Metal Lid

## Keeping the meter clear

Water meters become overgrown with vegetation over time. Planting hedges, shrubs and plants next to a water meter box will require you to maintain access to the water meter in the future. Meter readers require access that allows them to stand over the meter box to properly lift and replace the concrete or metal lid. Typically this access would be three feet around the meter box and four feet above it.



Typical water meter; it looks clear because you can see the meter lid. But the vegetation prevents the meter reader from standing over the box.

Depending on your water system Bowen Island Municipality reads your water meter from twice a year to monthly during the summer months. Keeping the meter clear will avoid additional time for the meter reader locating and reading the meter. A leak in your water system could go undetected if the water meter is not read, and that means you pay an additional cost for the wasted water. Meter lids located in the lawn become overgrown with grass and need to be trimmed so the meter lid can be removed and replaced easily.



Before Trimming



After Trimming



Touch Pad Meter Lid

Touch Pad meters are read with an electronic wand touched to a sending unit embedded in the lid.

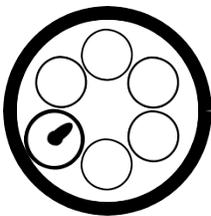
These meters still require complete access to the meter box to allow for meter checks, maintenance and emergency shutoff.

## How to check for a leak

Make sure no one is using any water (e.g. taps, toilet, laundry, or dishwasher). Locate your water meter, which is under a 10 x 15 inch metal or concrete lid located outside on the property line. If your lid has a black plastic disc on it, then take care not to damage the wires attached to the meter head when removing and replacing the lid. Determine from the pictures below which meter type you have and what the leak indicator is. Watch the meter for 10 to 15 minutes. If the indicator is moving then there is water flowing through your meter and a possible leak somewhere in your water system. Bowen Island Municipality is not responsible for detecting or fixing water leaks on private property.



Newer meters have a red or black triangle and a needle that moves when water is flowing through the meter. Watch this to detect a leak.



Older meters have clock faces. The face that is located in this example is the ten gallon dial. The ten gallon dial is the leak indicator. Watch this to detect a leak.