

Litre

- The amount of water which fits into a 10 centimetre x 10cm x 10cm cube
- Many drinks are sold by the litre. Check your milk carton in the refrigerator to see how many litres it contains.

Kilolitre

- Equals 1000 litres
- The amount of water which fits into a 1 metre x 1m x 1m cube
- Coliban Water measures treated water for households and businesses in towns in kilolitres
- A garden sprinkler or free flowing tap can use up to a kilolitre of water in one hour

Megalitre

- 1,000,000 litres (One million litres) or 1000 cubic metres
- 2.5 megalitres of water fill a 50 metre Olympic size swimming pool
- Farmers are supplied with untreated water by the megalitre (ML)
- Coliban Water's largest reservoir, the Upper Coliban Reservoir, can hold up to 37,500ML
- Lake Eppalock is managed by Goulburn-Murray Water and can hold up to 305,000ML

Gigalitre

- 1000,000,000 litres (One billion litres) or 1 million cubic metres
- Water flowing in rivers is measured in gigalitres (GL)
- Average Murray River inflows to the Hume Dam are around 4000GL per year
- The largest storage in Australia is Lake Pedder on the Gordon River in Tasmania which can hold up to 12,450GL
- The total amount of drinking water used by all the people in Melbourne in one year can be more than 500GL
- The Wimmera-Mallee pipeline will save 103GLof water which is currently lost in the channel system through seepage and evaporation

How to read your water meter at home

The display on your water meter will be one of the two shown below.

Figures with the white background denote kilolitres and those with shaded background denote litres.

The first reads 23.419 kilolitres or 23,419 litres

			2	3	4	1	9
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The second reads 23.4192 kilolitres or 23,419.2 litres

			2	3	4	1	9	2
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Essentially these readings are the same but the second type has a greater degree of accuracy.