



Maintenance Facility

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Irrigation Meters

What is an irrigation meter?

An Irrigation meter is a water meter that is specifically designated for water purposes that do not drain into a sanitary sewer system. Although typically used to connect to an irrigation/sprinkler system, irrigation meters can also be used without an irrigation system.

Who can benefit from an irrigation meter?

Any customer who is connected to a sanitary sewer service and who uses a large volume of water for irrigation or seasonal purposes may find an irrigation meter economical. The charge for water is the same whether you use a domestic meter or an irrigation meter; the real savings is in the wastewater charges, since sewer bills are calculated based on your domestic water meter's usage. And, since wastewater fees are typically significantly higher than water rates, you could be looking at a significant savings if you use a lot of water for irrigation purposes.

How do you determine when it's more economical for an irrigation meter?

There are a few factors to consider when deciding whether or not an irrigation meter will add up to savings for you. All of the information provided below assumes the residential and irrigation meters are sized at ¾"; larger meters result in different rates and minimum charges.

- Tap fee – If you've never had an irrigation meter installed at your property, you will have to pay for a new Water Tap. At our 2014 rates, a water tap for a ¾" meter (typical size for domestic purposes) is \$1,114.
- Meter deposit – To establish a new account for an irrigation meter, there is a \$40 deposit. This deposit is refundable at the time the account is de-activated (from termination of service, moving, etc.).
- Minimum charge – When the meter is on, there is a minimum monthly charge of \$17.25 that includes up to 2,500 gallons of water. There is no monthly charge during months the meter is shut-off.
- Wastewater rates – Chandler Wastewater has lower rates than many of the surrounding wastewater utilities. With this in mind, it would be advisable to find out what the specific rates are in your area to determine your overall wastewater savings through use of an irrigation meter. Chandler Wastewater 2014 rates are \$9.68 per 1,000 gallons of metered water usage for customers outside the town limits and \$7.35 for customers living within the town limits of Chandler. Newburgh rates are \$12.27 per 1,000 gallons of metered water usage outside the town limits (no Chandler Water customers who are connected to Newburgh Sewer are located within the town limits of Newburgh).
- Water rates – Chandler Water rates are tiered (like many other water utilities). Because of this, you get a discount on metered water usage above the initial 2,500 gallons in a minimal billing. The rate goes from \$6.90 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.69 per 1,000 gallons from usage that's above 2,500 gallons (up to 10,000 gallons total usage, when rates drop again). So, if you use 5,000 gallons in a month's time: the first 2,500 gallons will cost you \$17.25; the additional 2,500 gallons will cost you \$9.23.

So, at what point will an irrigation meter save me money?

Most of the information here is based on the assumption you are already using more than the minimum billed amount of water without any of that water being used for irrigation purposes. If you do not fit this assumption, you will likely not save money by installing a separate water meter. If you are already using more than the minimum billed amount of water, here is a breakdown of when you're likely to start seeing a savings:

- If you live inside the town limits of Chandler, the threshold for savings occurs at about 1,700 gallons of water usage. If you use 1,700 gallons of water through an irrigation meter instead of your house meter, you will save \$1.52 on your total water/wastewater bill in a month's time. At 2,000 gallons, the savings goes up to \$4.83 per month.
- If you live outside the town limits of Chandler, the threshold for savings occurs at about 1,400 gallons of water usage. If you use 1,400 gallons of water through an irrigation meter instead of your house meter, you will save \$1.47 on your total water/wastewater bill in a month's time. If you use 2,000 gallons of water per month, the savings would be \$9.49 per month.
- If you live outside the town limits of Chandler, and are a Chandler Water customer and Newburgh Sewer customer, the threshold for savings occurs at about 1,200 gallons of water usage. If you use 1,200 gallons of water through an irrigation meter instead of your house meter, you will save \$1.90 on your total water/wastewater bill in a month's time. At 2,000 gallons, the savings goes up to \$14.67 per month.

How do I go about getting an irrigation meter installed?

The first thing you need to do is apply for a new water tap. Applications, along with tap fees, are available online at TownOfChandler.org. You will need to visit the Chandler Utilities Billing Office, at 417 E. Jefferson Street in Chandler, IN, to pay for the tap and turn in the water tap application. Please allow two to three weeks from the time of application for the meter to be installed; some can be installed much more quickly and others may take longer, depending on the difficulty of the installation (whether or not we will need to bore the service under a roadway, etc.) and other factors.