



## 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 twice the cost of 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.

- 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 2015 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. Current rates for Chandler Wastewater are \$9.45 per 1,000 gallons of metered water usage for customers outside the town limits and \$11.45 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.

### **I'm still confused... Will an irrigation meter save me money?**

It depends. If you are planning to reside at your current property to justify the cost of a new water tap, and you will be using at least the minimum amount of 2,500 gallons of water during times when your irrigation meter is turned on, you will likely save money by having an irrigation meter installed.

Here are a few examples to help you:

- With 2,500 gallons in one month, the water charges for an irrigation meter would be \$17.25. Assuming your domestic water use aside from irrigation uses is already more than 2,500 gallons per month, your water charge for 2,500 gallons of irrigation usage would cost you an additional \$9.23 on your domestic water meter bill; wastewater charges on a domestic meter would be \$23.63 (if you live in Chandler), \$28.63 (if you're on Chandler Wastewater, but don't live in the town limits), or \$30.68 (if you're on Newburgh Sewer). So, using an irrigation meter for 2,500 gallons of water in a month is going to save you \$15.61 (in Chandler), \$20.61 (outside of Chandler), or \$22.66 (outside of Newburgh).
- With 3,000 gallons in one month, water charges on an irrigation meter would be \$19.10. Making the same assumptions as above, that same water usage would cost \$11.07 on your domestic water bill; wastewater charges would be \$28.35 (in Chandler), \$34.35 (outside Chandler), or \$36.81 (outside Newburgh). The savings with an irrigation meter would be \$20.32, \$26.32, or \$28.78 respectively.
- If you use less than the minimum amount, say 1,500 gallons in a particular month, the water charges for the irrigation meter would be \$17.25. Using the same amount through your domestic water meter would cost \$5.54; wastewater charges on 1,500 gallons are \$14.18 (in Chandler), \$17.18 (outside Chandler), or \$18.41 (outside Newburgh). So, using an irrigation meter for 1,500 gallons would only save you \$2.47 (in Chandler), \$5.47 (outside Chandler), or \$6.70 (outside Newburgh).

### **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](http://TownOfChandler.org). You will need to visit the Chandler Water 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.