



Maintenance Facility

101 Constitution Court • Chandler, IN 47610

812.925.6213 phone • 812.925.7298 fax

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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 $\frac{3}{4}$ "; 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 2021 rates, a water tap for a $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter (typical size for domestic purposes) is \$1,310.
- 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 monthly service charge of \$6.20, regardless of water usage. 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 2021 rates are \$11.63 per 1,000 gallons of metered water usage for customers outside the town limits and \$10.13 for customers living within the town limits of Chandler. Current Newburgh rates are \$16.78 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 \$6.32 per 1,000 gallons (up to 20,000 gallons total usage, when rates drop to \$5.90 per 1,000 gallons). So, if you use 5,000 gallons in a month's time, the total water cost would be \$37.80 (monthly service charge of \$6.20 plus the \$6.32 per 1,000 gallons water rate).

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're using enough water to more than offset the sewer costs associated with your irrigation usage, it's worth looking into. Here is a breakdown of monthly costs based on water usage through a domestic water tap vs. an irrigation water tap:

- If you live inside the town limits of Chandler: If you use 1,000 gallons of water through an irrigation meter instead of your house meter, you will save \$3.93 on your total water/wastewater bill in a month's time. At 1,500 gallons, the savings goes up to \$9 per month; at 2,000 gallons of irrigation water usage, you would save \$14.06 per month.
- If you live outside the town limits of Chandler: If you use 1,000 gallons of water through an irrigation meter instead of your house meter, you will save \$5.43 on your total water/wastewater bill in a month's time. At 1,500 gallons, the savings goes up to \$11.25 per month; at 2,000 gallons of irrigation water usage, you would save \$17.06 per month.
- If you live outside the town limits of Chandler, and are a Chandler Water customer and Newburgh Sewer customer: If you use 1,000 gallons of water through an irrigation meter instead of your house meter, you will save \$10.58 on your total water/wastewater bill in a month's time. At 1,500 gallons, the savings goes up to \$18.97 per month; at 2,000 gallons of irrigation water usage, you would save \$27.36 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 401 E. Lincoln Avenue 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.

Additional information:

Irrigation systems typically have an independent shut-off valve between the water meter and the system. The meter does not need to be turned off and on seasonally if you have an irrigation system with its own shut-off valve. This means when you go to winterize your irrigation system and/or have your service provider start up your system in the spring, there is no need to have the meter turned on or off for those services, unless you prefer to skip the monthly \$6.20 fee during the months you will not be using any water for irrigation or seasonal purposes. Please note, however, that Chandler Utilities does charge a shut-off and turn-on fee of \$20 each, or \$40 total, for those services. In other words, it will cost you \$37.20 to keep the water meter on for six months out of the year with no water usage, or \$40 total to have the meter shut off and turned back on for the period the service will not be in use.

Water meters and meter pits are owned and maintained by Chandler Utilities and are for maintenance purposes only; access of a water meter pit by any unauthorized personnel can result in fines and legal action.