



Process to add secondary meter

1. The homeowner will visit the utility billing department and purchase the secondary meter.
 - a. Please note, it is advisable to obtain a quote from a licensed plumber on installation costs prior to purchasing the second meter.
2. The plumber will need to go online to the permit portal and purchase a permit to install the secondary meter. Once installation has been completed, the plumber will need to request an inspection so Public Works can inspect the tap.
3. If a new irrigation system is being installed, the irrigation contractor will need to go online and pull their permit to install.

For permit- related questions, please contact the permit desk at 713-466-2110, option 1

Irrigation Water Meter FAQ

A water irrigation meter is a water meter that exclusively records water used for outdoor watering and irrigation. This additional meter provides utility customers the following benefits:

- Reduced wastewater (sewer) bills because wastewater charges only apply to indoor usage and not to the irrigation meter usage
- Accurate measurement of outdoor water use
- Separate shutoff for the irrigation system

There are additional costs required for the purchase of the meter and installation. However, a dedicated irrigation meter pays for itself over time. In general, dedicated irrigation meters are a great benefit to utility customers and are encouraged.

Could a secondary meter save me money in the long run?

The best way to save money is to conserve the water you use, but if you use water to irrigate the lawn or garden, you should consider installing an irrigation meter - it registers outside water usage only. Since the water does not enter the sanitary sewer system, you will be billed for water usage only. If you use a lot of water outside the house, this could result in significant savings particularly on your summertime water bills.

What will the second meter cost?

In order to save money in the long run, expect to cover these initial costs associated with installing a water irrigation meter:

- Purchase of the secondary water meter ([Schedule of Fees](#))
- All costs to install the necessary plumbing on your side of the meter
- If installing a new irrigation system, backflow prevention device, certification testing, and the purchase of necessary permits
- Costs associated with meter installation: your property may require a Short Side Tap (Water main is on the same side of the road as your property) or Long Side Tap (Water main is on the opposite side of the road from your property). A qualified plumber with the capability to perform a water tap into the city's main water line is required and can specify the type of tap needed for installation.

Why is a separate tap required?

- A separate tap into the City's main water line will ensure both your household meter and irrigation meter receive proper pressure
- A separate tap will ensure all plumbing and related components are of proper sizing

Additional installation questions can be directed to the Utility Supervisor at 713-466-2158. Utility billing related questions can be directed to 713-466-2111.