

## DECIDING ON AN AUXILIARY METER

Sewer charges are based on water consumption measured by meter readings and assumes that all water used is discharged to the city's sanitary sewer system. Only customers who use substantial amounts of water not entering the sanitary sewer system stand to save on their sewer bill by installing an auxiliary meter system. An example of a customer who may benefit is one who uses a high volume of water outside to water a lawn or extensive landscaping.

An auxiliary meter system must be purchased, installed, and maintained by the property owner.

A \$2 service charge is added to scheduled bills for auxiliary meter customers to help offset the city's additional cost of reading and calculating the auxiliary meter.

**Please note:** if you have an irrigation system or plan to install one, you must contact the Division of Water (DOW) Backflow Section in advance for further regulation information at 614-645-6674. Backflow preventers must be tested at the time of installation by a DOW approved backflow tester and at least every twelve months thereafter. There is an annual fee of \$25.00 per backflow preventer required by the DOW.

## INSPECTION AND APPROVAL OF AN AUXILIARY METER

After the auxiliary meter and radio transmitter are installed, you must call Customer Service to schedule a final inspection for approval of the meter. This is necessary in order to:

- Verify proper installation of the meter.
- Activate and verify radio transmitter is working properly.
- Set up the account to reflect the correct sewer charges.

**Customer Service** can be reached at **614-645-8276**, weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m for questions or to schedule an inspection of a new installation or repairs to your auxiliary meter system.

**Note:** If you have a backflow device installed along with your auxiliary meter, you must wait until your backflow device is registered in our system to schedule an appointment, this could take 7 to 10 days. You can also verify registration at our customer portal at <https://tokay.columbus.gov/tokayflow/>.

**Effective 12-8-25:** All appointments scheduled on or after this date must meet current requirements.



Scan to Learn More or Visit  
[columbus.gov/AuxiliaryMeteringSystems](https://columbus.gov/AuxiliaryMeteringSystems)



# Auxiliary Metering Systems



[columbus.gov/CWP](https://columbus.gov/CWP)

## REQUIREMENTS FOR AUXILIARY METERS

The property owner is responsible for correctly installing and maintaining the auxiliary meter and radio transmitter. The installation must conform to current requirements by Columbus Water & Power.

The auxiliary meter must be compatible with the Sensus 510M Smartpoint (box) or Sensus 520M Smartpoint (tower) radio transmitters and measure in cubic feet.

The auxiliary meter must be programmed as follows:

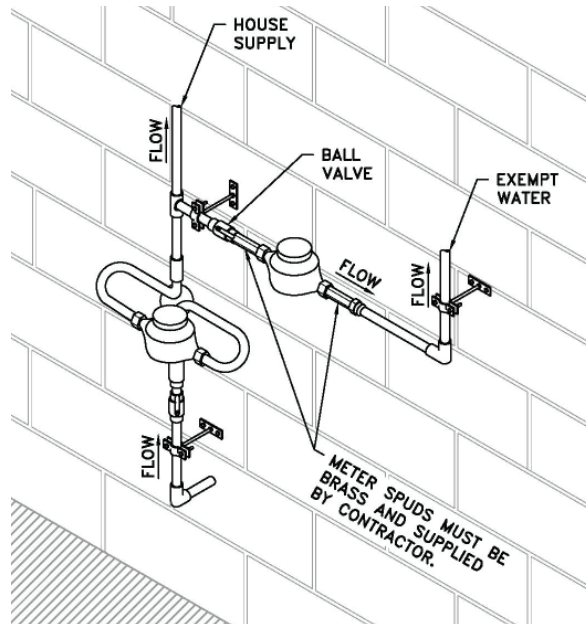
- 5/8" to 1" meters: 8 dials reading down to .01 cubic foot.
- 1.5" meters: 8 dials reading down to .1 cubic foot.
- 2" and larger meters: 8 dials reading down to 10 cubic feet.

The auxiliary meter must be installed:

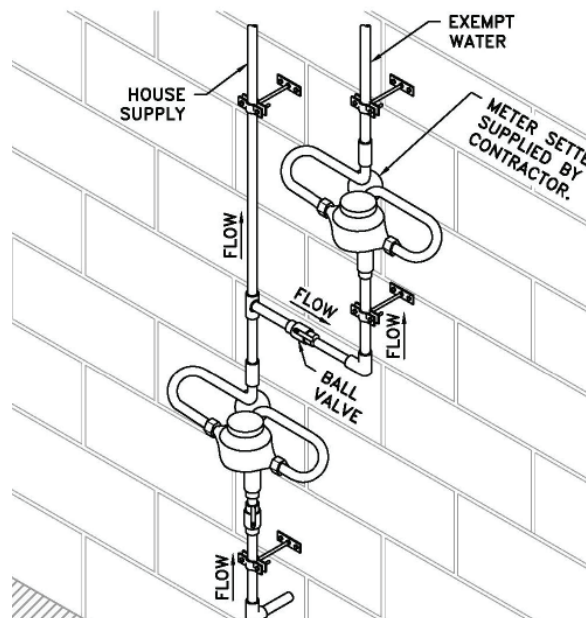
- Downstream from the main water meter, as near to it as possible.
- The reading dial must be positioned straight up.
- At a height readable from the floor not to exceed 5'.
- Auxiliary meters are not permitted in confined spaces.

Exceptions would have to be approved by Columbus Water & Power.

## AUXILIARY METER INSTALLATION OPTIONS



Spud Set



Meter Setter

## REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIO TRANSMITTER

Sensus 510M Smartpoints are for homes, buildings, and heated enclosures. The Sensus 510M must be mounted outside in the correct orientation of 'this end up' print and be 3' - 5' above grade. It cannot be located behind anything that could cause electrical interference (a/c units, generators) and must avoid recessed parts of an outside wall. If other houses/buildings are closer than 6', avoid installing the radio transmitter directly facing the other building. It must be mounted horizontal to other Sensus 510M's with 4"- 6" between them."



Sensus 510M

Wire requirements per Sensus is to use three-conductor, 22-gauge solid conductor cable to connect the water meter to the Sensus 510M radio transmitter.

Sensus 520M Smartpoints are for vaults and meter boxes. The top of the Sensus 520M must be mounted correctly into the lid so it is at grade and pointing up.



Sensus 520M

Sensus 520M Smartpoints require a touch coupling to connect to the meter.

Auxiliary meters and radio transmitters are available from most central Ohio plumbing supply dealers.