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. The best way to determine if an auxiliary meter will benefit you is to compare your summer and winter water usage.

An auxiliary meter system must be purchased, installed and maintained by you or your contractor. Only specific meters will be approved for usage. When the meter and endpoint are installed, an inspection by the city must be made to insure proper installation, they must be able to read the endpoint from the street, and to set up the account to reflect the proper sewer charges.

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.

Inspection and Approval of an Auxiliary Meter

After the auxiliary meter and Endpoint are installed, you must schedule a final inspection to approve the device before possible reduction of sewer charges can occur. If you have questions, need more information on the equipment, proper installation or wish to schedule an inspection of an auxiliary sewer meter, please call:

311 or 645-3111

Or call the Columbus Department of Public Utilities Customer Service Call Center directly at 645-8276, weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please note: if you have an irrigation system or plan to install one, you must contact the Division of Water Backflow Section in advance for further regulation information at 645-6674. An initial inspection by a City of Columbus approved licensed contractor will be required, as well as future annual inspections by same, and there will be an annual backflow device fee added to your bill.
The auxiliary meter must be compatible with a Itron 100W (tower) or a 100R (remote) Endpoint. The 100W (tower) model is preferred. These are the only types of meters that will be approved for use in the City of Columbus and contracted communities. These water meters are available from most central Ohio plumbing supply dealers.

The property owner is responsible for correctly installing and maintaining the auxiliary meter and Endpoint. The installation must conform to current requirements by the Columbus Department of Public Utilities and the American Water Works Association.

If you are unsure about the correct installation method, please seek assistance from a licensed plumbing professional.

The auxiliary meter must be located down-stream from the main water meter, but as near to it as possible. When installed, the face (reading dial) must be positioned straight up. The meter must be located at a height readable from the floor. Meters are not permitted in crawl spaces.

The system must measure water in cubic feet and be equipped with a compatible Endpoint. An Itron 100W Endpoint will have a wire connection port which must be mounted inside, and must be readable from the street. An Itron 100R Endpoint will need to be wired correctly, it must be mounted outside and it must be readable from the street.