

Division of Environmental Health Services
DWU - PRIVATELY OWNED WATER & SEWAGE METERS

DALLAS WATER UTILITIES

GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATELY OWNED WATER AND WASTEWATER METERS

BACKGROUND

Dallas Water Utilities bills commercial and industrial customers for wastewater treatment based on metered water consumption. Studies have shown that the typical customer returns 90% of their water volume to the wastewater treatment system. About 10% , which is not returned, is automatically deducted by our rate structure.

If your business returns less than 90% of its water consumption to the wastewater system, you might benefit from purchase and installation of a private water or wastewater meter. Installation of a private meter eliminates the credit of approximately 10%.

Most common reasons are:

- water evaporated in cooling tower systems
- water consumed in a manufacturing process

All wastewater entering the wastewater treatment system must be accurately measured. This can be accomplished by using a wastewater meter to measure discharge into the system or a water meter to deduct water which is not returned to the wastewater system from total water consumption.

Following are the most common configurations currently approved for use by DWU. Other configurations may be submitted but will be closely reviewed on an individual basis.

- A. Wastewater meter to measure total discharge into the wastewater collection system. If the customer has more than one wastewater lateral, a meter will be required for each lateral.
- B. Deduct water meter to measure water which does not return to the wastewater collection system. Volume measured on the deduct is subtracted from the total water volume for calculation of sewer charges. An example would include water to be consumed in a manufacturing process.

Water meters must conform with standards established by the American Water Works Association. Copies of the standards will be provided to the customer by Industrial Billing. All configurations must be approved by Dallas Water Utilities.

METER STANDARDS

Water Meters

1. Must conform with standards established by the American Water Works Association.
2. Must measure water consumption in gallons and must be sized according to flow.
3. Registers must record consumption to at least hundreds of gallons. Registers must have no more than seven (7) digits when reading to hundreds of gallons. Registers must be clearly marked to insure ease of accurate readings by Dallas Water Utilities meter readers.
4. Meter location must be easily accessible for monthly reading by Dallas Water Utilities meter readers and must provide accessibility for periodic testing.

Wastewater Meters

1. Wastewater meters must be sonic flowmeters which utilize a closed pipe.
2. Meters must register wastewater discharge in gallons and must be sized according to flow.
3. Registers must record consumption to at least hundreds of gallons. Register must have no more than seven (7) digits when reading to hundreds of gallons. Register must be clearly marked to insure ease of accurate reading by Dallas Water Utilities meter readers.
4. Meters must be self calibrating and accurate to .3 foot per second.
5. Meters must have a 31 day recording chart.
6. Additional information can be provided by the Wastewater Collection Division of Dallas Water Utilities.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

Dallas Water Utilities must approve your plans in advance of installation to insure:

- That all discharge into the wastewater collection system is accounted for.
- That the meter is accessible for monthly reading by DWU.
- That the meter can be tested for accuracy.
- A copy of plans showing all wastewater laterals must be furnished to DWU.

Any meters installed which do not meet all requirements and standards will not be approved for billing use. For this reason, it is important that you contact DWU early in the planning stages of your project.

After DWU approves your plans and you have purchased a meter which meets required specifications, you may install the meter. DWU will then inspect the meter and installation, tag the meter with a number which will be used in billing, get an initial read and approve a maintenance schedule. DWU may also choose to test the meter for accuracy prior to initiating billing.

Customer must submit a letter requesting separate billing and agree to remain on the rate for at least one (1) year.

TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

All privately owned meters must be tested prior to use for billing purposes. Certified test results from an independent party must be provided to DWU.

Routine maintenance and testing must be performed according to the following schedule:

Water Meters-

<u>Meter Size (Inches)</u>	<u>Testing Intervals</u>
5/8"	10 yrs.
3/4"	8
1"	6
1 1/2"	4
2"	4
3"	3
4"	2
5"	1

Results must be supplied to DWU. Any Meter which falls outside registration accuracy guidelines found in the AWWA Standards must be replaced at the customer's expense.

Wastewater Meters

All types of wastewater flowmeters will require routine maintenance at intervals that will depend upon what material is discharged at low levels. Most schedules will require maintenance every two or four weeks. This schedule will be approved by DWU prior to installation.

All wastewater meters must be tested annually by an independent party and test results provided to DWU.

Meters which register less than 98% or more than 102% must be repaired or replaced.

PRIVATE METER CHARGES

A one time fee of \$8.25 will be charged for each newly installed private meter.

A monthly fee of \$10.02 (Prompt Pay) will be charged for each private meter.

Wastewater discharge will be billed at \$1.73 (Prompt Pay) per thousand gallons. This rate does not include the allowance given customers without private meters.

For additional information or to discuss a private meter for your business, please call:

Dallas Water Utilities
Industrial Billing Section
(214) 670-3102

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SAMPLE LETTER

Sally Marable, Supervisor
Industrial Billing
Dallas Water Utilities
City Hall, 3 A North
Dallas, TX 75201-6320

Regarding Account #

Dear Sally Marable,

We have installed private meters in order to reduce sewer charges because we believe more than 10% of our water usage does not return to the sanitary sewer. Please see attached diagram of our metering configuration and copy of meter specifications. Also attached is a certification verifying that the meter is installed and set up correctly. We agree to have the meter calibrated annually.

We request that this account be placed on the Wastewater Metered Separately Rate.

We understand and agree that we will remain on this rate for at least one year. We also understand that the rate for sewer will change from \$1.56 to \$1.73 per 1,000 gallons (current charges as of Oct. 1, 2002), eliminating the allowance built into the sewer rate based on water usage.

We also understand that there will be a \$10.02 monthly charge for each private meter installed.

Please contact _____, at phone #
_____ For further information if necessary.

Signed
Title

Attachments