

With a clear water meter, this would avoid about \$160 of wastewater charges a year. Thus, less the **\$3.50 monthly meter fee** payback could be realized in three to six years.

Payback would likely be much sooner if a clear water meter is installed during new home construction (new construction installation vs. retrofit cost is less and first year's water usage for establishing a lawn is usually higher).

A 10-day rental fee is \$15.00 and would require consumption of about 3,375 gallons just to break even (not including personal time and travel value for two trips to the Water Resources Division).

The 45-day rental fee would require about 9,000 gallons before any net savings would occur.

Existing Deduct Meters

Existing permanent clear water meters piped in the "deduct" configuration may remain for the time being.

Customers will be required to read and communicate these deduct meter readings to the City's Treasury Department in City Hall for manual billing adjustment (no automatic system).

Portable Kit Rentals

Portable meters may be rented where a meter is needed for a short period of time. For example, filling a pool or watering a new lawn. Rental periods may be either 10 days at a cost of \$15 plus water usage or 45 days at a cost of \$40 plus Water usage. Kits are available from the City's Water Resources Division during regular business hours.



2400 Springbrook Court

608-364-2888

www.beloitwi.gov

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Clear Water Meter Program



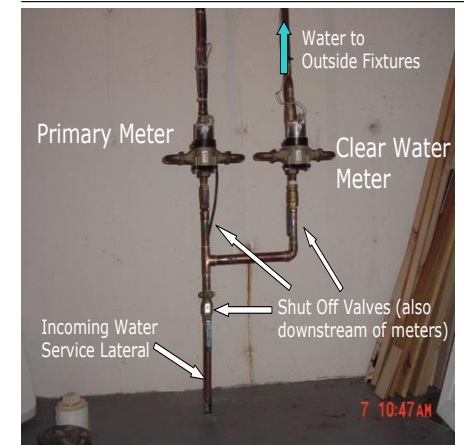
Department of Public Works

Water Resources Division

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Addition Method Permanent CWM



Why Have A Clear Water Meter?

Wastewater service charges are typically based upon the volume of water measured from your water meter. Some customers use water outside their structure(s) for property maintenance, gardens, filling swimming pools, etc. where water does not later enter the sanitary sewer system. Let's refer to this outside use water as "clear water".

Accounting for Clear Water

Over time, there have been a variety of ways to account for clear water. Prior to the purchase of the Water Utility by the city "summer averaging" was utilized to calculate sewer bills. October through April monthly average water usage set May through September monthly wastewater volume for billing.

During Alliant Energy's ownership, some customers purchased and plumbed in "deduct meters" so the city could credit the wastewater charge according to actual clear water usage.

In 2003, coupled with a 10% rate reduction for residential wastewater fees, summer averaging was eliminated by the city, leaving a

secondary meter called the Clear Water Meter (CWM) as the only option to achieve wastewater fee savings. Today, permanent and portable clear water meter policies have been established.

Permanent Clear Water Meter

Ideally, the clear water meter is plumbed into a branch of piping ahead of the primary water meter (see photo on pamphlet cover). All piping downstream of the clear water meter goes to fixtures where the water used cannot enter the sewer system. With such a clear water meter, wastewater charges are based only on usage from the primary meter instead of the total water usage.

Automated Meters

With a permanent clear water meter, both water meters will have an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) head and radio transmitter. The AMR and the city's MUNIS customer accounting software systems work together to automatically calculate water and wastewater billings. Thus, the customer needs to make no further effort to receive the effective sewer credit.

Portable Rental Kit

Portable meters may be rented from the city where a meter is needed for a short period of time such as filling a large pool or watering a new lawn. Rental period options are 10 days at a cost of \$15 or 45 days at a cost of \$40 this plus any sewer credit is lost to the customer if the kit is not returned when due. Customers must also be current on their utility account to rent a kit.

Which Option is Right for Me?

With either the permanent or portable clear water meter option savings is derived from the avoidance of the wastewater fee of \$3.68 per unit for water not entering the sewer system. A unit of water or wastewater billing is 100 cubic feet which is equal to 748 gallons.

A typical permanent clear water meter installation by a licensed plumber costs \$300 to \$600, plus a **\$35 meter charge**. Six inches of water to irrigate an average lawn in a typical summer would consume approximately 50 units of water.