



## SPRINKLER METER APPLICATION PROCESS

### *Am I required to have a Sprinkler Meter?*

A separate sprinkler meter is not required. It may or may not be in the best interest of the owner to install a separate water meter depending on their water usage.

### *How do I know if I will save money if I use a separate sprinkler meter?*

While we can't tell you whether or not you will save money using a separate sprinkler meter we can provide you with some cost information that will help you make your decision. See the following cost information.

### *How much does a sprinkler meter cost?*

There are several factors to be included in the analysis of the total costs for a sprinkler meter. 1) To provide the service connection HWWS assesses a tap fee which varies from \$200.00 for a 3/4" meter to \$250.00 for a 1" meter. For meter sizes greater than 1" you will need to contact the HWWS

engineering department. 2) The irrigator/backflow tester is also required to pay a \$100.00 fee each year to be registered with HWWS. If they are already registered with HWWS, then this would not apply. 3) There is a \$5.00 fee for each test conducted or observed by HWWS. 4) All backflow devices are to be inspected and tested annually by a licensed backflow technician. These costs are established by the private backflow technicians so HWWS cannot provide specific costs for this item. 5) Once the sprinkler meter is installed by HWWS, it will be the owner's responsibility to connect to the irrigation system to the sprinkler meter. This work would be done by the owner's irrigation contractor and paid for by the owner.

### *How do I get a Sprinkler Meter installed?*

You will need to submit a request to the Harlingen Waterworks engineering department for a 'non-domestic' tap order. However, before you can apply for a non-domestic tap order you will need an Irrigation Permit from the HWWS Water department. For more information about the requirements for an Irrigation Permit please contact the

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Engineering Department  
134 Van Buren, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harlingen, Texas

956-430-6107



HARLINGEN  
WATERWORKS  
SYSTEM

134 VAN BUREN, HARLINGEN,  
TEXAS 956-430-6107

Water Department at 956-440-6591 or ask our Engineering department staff for the ‘Irrigation Permit Application Permit’ pamphlet. After you have received your Irrigation Permit, you will bring a copy of your permit to the HWWS Engineering department located at 134 E. Van Buren Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

***After I apply for a Sprinkler Meter, how long does it take to get installed?***

After the non-domestic tap order is complete it typically take 5-7 working days to complete the field work to install the sprinkler meter. This can vary depending on weather and workload conditions. When the meter is initially installed it is locked in the closed position. Only after the irrigator has completed the installation of the irrigation system and completed all required testing is the sprinkler meter unlocked and authorized for use.

***Who Can Apply for a Sprinkler Meter?***

Only the property owner may apply for a sprinkler meter. The addition of a sprinkler meter includes the establishment of a new billing account

and therefore, to protect the individual property owners, we do not allow contractors to submit applications for sprinkler meters.

***Can I use just one Sprinkler Meter to water more than one lot?***

No. A sprinkler meter cannot be used to provide service to more than one platted lot. Each platted lot may be sold to another owner and therefore it is important that each platted lot have its’ own independent irrigation system.

***Do I need a domestic water use account before I can apply for a sprinkler meter?***

Yes, unless the property is zoned for agricultural use.

***I already have a domestic water meter, can I use that for irrigation as well?***

Yes, but is will still be necessary to secure an Irrigation Permit from the water department and to complete all installation in accordance with the permit requirements.

***What is a Backflow Prevention Device?***

Every irrigation system must have a backflow prevention device to isolate and protect the potable water system from potential reverse flow that could potentially contain contaminants or pollutants or any other source of water that has been treated to a lesser degree than the city water.

***For Additional Information see:***

Harlingen Waterworks System  
[www.hwws.com](http://www.hwws.com)

City of Harlingen  
<http://www.myharlingen.us/>

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Rules, Chapter 344  
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/rules/indxpathdf.html#344>

Texas Occupations Code – Chapter 1903 Irrigators  
[https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex.\\_occ.\\_code\\_section\\_1903.053](https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._occ._code_section_1903.053)

80<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, House Bill 1656  
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth154818/>

Cameron County  
[www.co.cameron.tx.us](http://www.co.cameron.tx.us)