



Town of Bennington, VT

Water Meter FAQ's

Who can be on a Water Meter?

Any Single-family home has the **OPTION** to be on a water meter. All Commercial, Multi-residential (apartments) and Mixed Commercial-Residential buildings are **REQUIRED** to be on a meter.

Who pays for the Water Meter?

The **property owner** is responsible for the initial purchase of the water meter. As long as the meter is not neglected or purposefully damaged, the Town will maintain the meter thereafter. Normal “wear & tear” items and replacement due to age will be at the cost of the Water Department.

Please call the Bennington Town Office Water Department for current pricing.

How do I know what size meter to purchase?

Most single-family homes can be suited with either of the two smaller sized meters. A 5/8” Water Meter (the smallest) delivers 20 gallons per minute. These are best suited for medium to smaller homes. They are equipped with 1/2” water line couplings. If the water line that services the home is 3/4” the Water Department can switch out the couplings to fit the 3/4” water line.

A 3/4” Water Meter delivers 30 gallons per minute. These are best suited for larger capacity homes or those with multiple water appliances (Washers, Dishwashers etc). They are equipped with couplings to fit 3/4” water line service.

If you are unsure of which size to purchase, Water Department personnel may assist you.

Who installs the meter?

The **property owner** is responsible for the cost of the installation. A Vermont Licensed plumber must provide the service. Please pay special attention at this time to any leaking fixtures. These should be repaired while the plumber is on-site. It is also advisable to install or repair the Backflow Preventer (if not already installed), which is required in ALL buildings in Bennington. Certain locations in town are also required to have a Pressure Reducer. These two items will be verified by a Water Department employee along with the meter’s installation.

When would billing change?

Once the meter is installed it is the property owner’s responsibility to contact the Water Department for an inspection. Once the installation has been approved, the Town will begin billing based on usage. Bills will remain on a quarterly basis.

How will the charges differ?

Non-metered single-family homes are billed a flat rate each quarter. Metered accounts are billed a base fee each quarter with or without any usage. This covers the cost of the infrastructure maintenance (pipelines), fire protection (hydrants) etc. Then based on your usage, fees are billed in 1,000-gallon increments. This covers the cost of processing the water used. For every 1,000 gallons used a fee is added. The 2021-22 year rates are as follows:

Water Base	\$87.73	Water Usage Rate	\$5.41 (per 1,000gal)
Sewer Base	\$81.34	Sewer Usage Rate	\$4.54 (per 1,000gal)

This means if a home serviced by both Water &/or Sewer uses 7,000 gallons (Tgals) in a 3-month period (quarter) their bill would be:

Quarterly Water ONLY		Both Water & Sewer	
Base Fee (W)	\$87.73	Base Fee (W&S)	\$169.07
Usage Fee (7,000)	\$37.87	Usage Fee (7,000)	\$ 69.65
Total Due	\$125.60	Total Due	\$238.72

**The Flat Rate for a single home would be the equivalent of using 10,000 gallons in a quarter on the metered rate structure.*

Will my bill be the same amount every quarter now that I am on a meter?

Your quarterly billing may or may *not* be the same each quarter. Base Fees remain the same within a fiscal year. They are a set rate. However, your usage fees may vary depending on how much you use. Washing cars more often, filling pools, watering gardens will all increase your usage. Additionally, leaking faucets and running toilets will also increase your usage. These are all things to be mindful of once you switch to a meter. **Conservation does pay.**

If I don't like being on a meter can I go back to a flat rate?

No. Bennington's Water & Sewer Policy is that once a property goes to a meter system it must always remain on a meter.

How are the meters read?

Water meters are installed in the basement of the property or where the water line enters the building. A radio unit is built into the meter head. Each quarter, a Water Department employee will simply drive past the property and collect the readings electronically. An employee would only need to gain entry if the reading is not registering or if suspected to be inaccurate.

What happens if the meter freezes and/or breaks?

If a meter freezes due to neglect (home is not heated) then the property owner will be billed for the labor and parts necessary to repair or replace the meter. If the meter fails due to normal "wear and tear" or faulty battery it will be repaired or replaced at the cost of the Bennington Water Department.