

Meter Charges

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One of the toughest aspects of conducting a rate study is trying to keep the rates as fair and equitable as possible to all users and still generate sufficient revenues to properly operate the utility. Most of the small water systems in Nebraska that we assist are primarily residential and thus the vast majority of users have the same size meters.

However, it always seems there is one or more users that want a larger meter for one reason or another. Many times it is simply to run more yard sprinklers or more stations of an underground automatic sprinkler system.

The two most common methods of determining the fairest way to charge larger meters are by using **meter cost ratios** or by using **meter capacity ratios**. (AWWA Manuals M1 & M6)

METER COST RATIOS: Using the meter cost ratio a consumer is charged a meter fee based on the cost difference of the meter being installed versus the cost of the standard meter in the system. The chart below is an example of how to properly set meter rates according to costs. **The cost figures are only an example and actual costs should be obtained to properly set the rate.**

METER COSTS	5/8" Meter	1" Meter	1.5" Meter	2" Meter
	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$450.00	\$650.00
Ratio to 5/8 Meter	1.00	1.50	2.25	3.25

METER CAPACITY RATIOS: The meter capacity ratio is based on the availability of water capacity that each user has at their disposal. Example, a consumer with a 2" meter can use up to 8 times the water of a user with a 5/8" meter and thus should pay a minimum bill accordingly.

METER CAPACITY	5/8" Meter	1" Meter	1.5" Meter	2" Meter
GPM	20	50	100	160
Ratio to 5/8 Meter	1.00	2.50	5.00	8.00