

What is an “optional meter?”

An optional meter is also called a deduct meter or irrigation meter. It is a second meter installed to measure the water that goes into the ground, not into the town sewer system. For example, your irrigation system can be connected to this meter, your pool, outside wash station, and outside spigots.

First, you must fill out the application form we have.

You must hire a licensed plumber to create space in your existing plumbing to install our meter. He must stop by our office and we will provide him with a “meter spacer,” that “holds the space for the meter to be installed.” You will pay your plumber for the work he has performed.

We will provide the meter and bill you once we have completed installation for parts and our labor.

When he is almost finished, have him give us a call so that we can inspect what he has done, we will remove the spacer and then install the meter while we are there. We always do this in this manner so that if any plumbing adjustments need to be made, he doesn't have to get called back and you are charged for a second service call by your plumber.

Once this is finished, we record this secondary meter linked to your water account and we read this meter, along with your house meter at our regular, quarterly reading time. We read electronically and report these readings to the Town of Barnstable Water Pollution Control Division (sewer department). They are a separate entity from us. We are a private fire district and are not subsidized by the Town. The Town governs Water Pollution Control.

You will now have TWO METERS: House meter & Deduct meter

**BILLS** – You will be billed for the total water through your house meter. This measures all of the water provided to your property. Your deduct meter will measure all of the water that does not go into the Town sewer system, which may include all of your “outside use.” Therefore, your sewer bill should be a savings.