

Frequently Asked Questions About Meter Replacement

1. Why is my water meter being replaced?

Over time, water meters become less accurate and can provide inaccurate water readings. By replacing meters, our city will be able to read more accurately and efficiently for water usage. In addition, the new system will include an automatic meter reading technology that will save labor time, prevent any recording errors, minimize wear and tear on vehicles, minimize the need for the city to go on the private property of residents, and potentially allow water line leaks to be identified earlier by analysis of data collected.

2. Does this mean my bill will be increasing?

Not necessarily. New meters will simply record consumption more accurately. In some cases, your bill may increase, but only if your current meter is underreporting usage. Presently the majority of residents are paying for the water they are actually using, while a few residents are only paying for a fraction of the water. Discussions have already been held within the Water Department and the City does not intend to make bills retroactive where under-billing has been noted. The new system will ensure accurate readings for all the residents and businesses in Grants from this point forward.

3. When will this work be performed?

The work will be started around May of this year. The entire project will take approximately 4 months. In most cases the transition will be completely transparent and will not affect the residents. The work will be performed during normal working hours of 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday - Saturday.

4. How will this affect my service?

A contractor will come to your residence and replace your meter. The water meter will be checked to verify that water is presently not in use. If no water is being used the meter will be replaced. There will be interruption of service for approximately 30 minutes during the change, but after that it will be the same great service (and even better) that you've come to expect.

5. How long will it take?

In most cases, it's a simple procedure that will require about 30 min.

6. How do I know who is authorized to do the work?

We have contracted with Siemens Representative to conduct this service. They will be driving SIEMENS labeled trucks, wearing teal shirts with identified by "SIEMENS Meter Team" and carrying appropriate identification.

7. Do they need to come inside my house?

No, all meters are located outside of the homes.

8. I'm on vacation or not available that day. Whom do I call?

In most cases it will not be necessary for anyone to be home. The majority of the work will take place near the street in the meter box. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the water billing department at (505)287-7927.

9. Why wasn't I able to turn on my water after the meter was installed?

In rare instances, the main cut-off valve to your home may be left off. This will occur when the meter installation team is not able to pressurize your home following the installation. The normal cause of this condition is when an inside spigot is opened during the installation and subsequently left open. The water is not turned back on to ensure a sink or bath tub does not overflow with the resident not home to turn the water off. In these cases, your water will be left off and a door hanger will be left on your door providing you a point of contact to call to have your water turned back on immediately.

10. Is there any Special Care or maintenance that I need to do to my new meter?

No, your new meter does not require any maintenance by the homeowner. As before, the City will take care of all maintenance. However, please know that this new meter has transmitting technology on it that allows our meter readers to read the meter with a lap top computer.

11. I still have questions, where can I get additional information?

The City is working with Siemens to answer everyone's questions as thoroughly as possible. Please 505-287-7927 with questions.

12. DONOT attempt to turn the water on or off you **must** contact the Water Department, 505-287-7927 Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm or after-hours emergency number 505-287-2983. Opening the meter may cause damage that you will be responsible for all cost to repair any damages.