

One Meter per Residence Requirements

It is important for water customers to receive a continuous and adequate supply of water. It is equally important for retail public utilities to have adequate measures in place to help ensure that each water customer receives an adequate supply of water that is protected from contamination from external sources. To help achieve this, rules have been written for the protection of both the customer and the utilities that call for one meter per residence or per commercial connection. The following are excerpts from TCEQ rules. The numbers and letters in brackets indicate where these rules can be found in the Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC).

These rules apply to public water utilities:

One meter is required for each residential, commercial, or industrial service connection. An apartment building or mobile home park may be considered by the utility to be a single commercial facility for the purpose of these sections. The executive director may grant an exception to the individual meter requirement if the plumbing of an existing multiple use or multiple occupant building would prohibit the installation of individual meters at a reasonable cost or would result in unreasonable disruption of

the customary use of the property.
[291.89(a)(4)]

Use of meter. All charges for water service shall be based on meter measurements, except where otherwise authorized in the utility's approved tariff. [291.89(a)(1)]

These rules apply to retail public utilities and public water systems:

Each community public water system shall provide accurate metering devices at each service connection for the accumulation of water usage data.
[290.44(d)(4)]

Connection - A single family residential unit or each commercial or industrial establishment to which drinking water is supplied from the system. [290.38]

Questions? Contact the Consumer

Assistance group, Water Supply Division, at 512-239-4691 (fax, 512-239-6145) or by mail at this address:

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