**Companion Meter Program**

There are 2 types of companion meter installations: 5/8” backflow meter and non-backflow meter. For anyone wishing to have a 5/8” meter the City will replace your existing meter with a 5/8” backflow meter and will issue a 5/8” companion meter post the installation of the 5/8” backflow meter. All other meter installations (meters larger than 5/8”) will require a RPZ backflow device.

**5/8” Backflow Meter Installation**

1. A permit will need to be issued from the Building Department at City Hall (50 Bald Eagle Drive).
2. Request a 5/8” backflow meter to be installed from the Customer Service Department at City Hall (all 5/8” meters will be backflow meters).
3. Once the 5/8” backflow meter installation is complete, a companion meter and meter box will be provided by Customer Service to the customer for installation.
	* Once a work order has been generated, the cost of the meter and meter box will be added to the water and sewer utility bill.
4. Have a plumber install the companion meter (use the diagram on the City’s web site for proper installation).
5. Return verification of completed installation to the Building Department, so that a certificate of completion can be issued.

**Meter Installation – Larger than 5/8”**

1. A permit will need to be issued from the Building Department at City Hall.
	1. If the property does not have a backflow device (RPZ), an RPZ will need to be installed.
	2. A current backflow certificate needs to be provided, indicating that the backflow device is functioning properly.
	3. The permit fee must be paid at that time.
2. Request the desired companion meter size (greater than 5/8”) from Customer Service.
	* Once a work order has been generated, the cost of the meter and meter box can be paid up front or added to the water and sewer utility bill.
3. Have a plumber install the companion meter (use the diagram on the City’s web site for proper installation).
4. Return verification of completed installation to the Building Department, so that a certificate of completion can be issued.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Permit Fee $84

Meter Box $35

Meter (cost are based on meter size)

 5/8 Backflow Meter $155 3/4” Meter $185

1.0” Meter $230 1.5” Meter $455

 2.0” Meter $580

**Once the companion meter is installed are there other fees associated with the companion meter program?** There is a $3 monthly base companion meter fee. This will show up on your bill, once the Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

**Why do I need to install a backflow device?** All homes built after 1992 or those properties making permit required modifications are required to install and maintain a backflow device. Backflow devices are designed to protect the City’s potable water distribution system.

**When is the backflow certification needed?** A backflow certification is required, if the customer does not have a 5/8” backflow meter installed by the City. The backflow certification will be submitted at the time the permit is issued.

**How will the installation of a companion meter affect my water and sewer bill?** The installation of a companion meter will only affect the sewer fees associated with your water and sewer bill. The potable water charges in your bill will be exactly the same whether or not a companion meter is installed. However, the meter reading from the companion meter will be deducted from the meter reading of the main meter. This difference will give the total gallons of indoor water usage, which will generate the sewer volumetric charge. Therefore, with the installation of a companion meter, the 6,000-gallon sewer protection cap will be eliminated.

EXAMPLE: if you are not home for an entire month and your water meter reads 10,000 gallons and your companion meter reads 10,000 gallons, your sewer charge will be zero because no water was used inside the house. Conversely, if you are home and your water meter reads 22,000 gallons and your companion meter reads 10,000 gallons, you will be charged for the 12,000 of sewer.

**North Marco Utilities, Goodland, Isle of Capri and Key Marco**

The companion meter program is not available for those that live in the North Marco Utility District, Goodland, Isle of Capri or Key Marco areas.

**What flows go to the companion meter?**

All outdoor connections: hose bibs, dock, irrigation, pool.