

**Here in Verona**, each residence has two water meters. One is connected to the home and subject to a sewage fee. The other is connected to the irrigation system and is not charged that fee by Hillsborough County. Ever since we moved into our home almost 7 years ago and our first water bill was over \$200, I check and record the water meter readings every Saturday to make sure the monthly bill matches what I have, plus or minus a few days' usage. Monitoring water meters like this has prevented some big surprises because leaks, incorrect settings, lack of irrigation due to the ground-fault interrupter that tripped during a storm, etc. can be spotted within a week instead of waiting a month for the bill to come.

Our water meters are underground along the road in the black hard-plastic boxes. The lids are rather heavy to withstand damage if a vehicle drives over them. If they are kept clean and free of debris, lids are relatively easy to lift off to gain access to the meters. Each individual meter has a hinged lid that is generally kept open and may have hand-written white letters on them that say IRR for irrigation or DOM for the house.

The dials are protected by a clear plastic lens cover that scratches very easily, so **it should be cleaned off using a squirt bottle**. Rubbing the dirt off that plastic lens too many times will severely scratch it to the point you will no longer be able to read the numbers. So, take care to clean it off gently.

METER NUMBER	PREVIOUS DATE	PREVIOUS READ	PRESENT DATE	PRESENT READ	CONSUMPTION	READ TYPE	METER DESCRIPTION
35003226	05/19/2023	7556	06/21/2023	7684	12800 GAL	ACTUAL	WATER
35003228	05/19/2023	3309	06/21/2023	3357	4800 GAL	ACTUAL	WATER

**Service Address Charges**

Customer Service Charge	\$5.28
Purchase Water Pass-Thru	\$53.15
Water Base Charge	\$10.98
Water Usage Charge	\$40.39
Sewer Base Charge	\$17.74
Sewer Usage Charge	\$27.41

**Summary of Account Charges**

Previous Balance	\$124.01
Net Payments - Thank You	\$-124.01
Total Account Charges	<b>\$154.95</b>
<b>AMOUNT DUE</b>	<b>\$154.95</b>

*Important Message*

The readings have 4 white background numbers followed by 3 black and represent gallons. Our current irrigation reading is 0778610 which means we've used 778,610 gallons since moving in. The water bill would show this reading as 7786 units, each unit equals 100 gallons. On my tracking sheet I would record this as 7786.1 units. To know what a unit of water costs, divide your total water bill by the total number of units consumed. Our last bill was \$154.95 divided by 176 units or 88 cents per unit. When we irrigate, we use about 16.5 units, so it costs about \$14.50 to water each time right now.


I have seen that the number of units it takes to irrigate will fluctuate a little. That's probably due to the water line pressure changes as other homes in the area are watering, showering, flushing toilets, etc. I have run flow tests on each zone and calculated what it should take to water, but it always takes less than calculated because the flow test was conducted during the day when nobody was watering.



If you decide to check your water meters, please be aware that wildlife may surprise you when you lift the lid. I have little frogs inside mine that hop all over the place until they find a hiding spot. On a rare occasion I have encountered small snakes inside one of the boxes in this neighborhood. Just look around a little before reaching into the box. That's where the spray water bottle comes in handy.

Here is a copy of my Saturday meter reading tracking sheet for the past few months showing my cost of irrigation:

## SATURDAY WATER METER READINGS

Date Read	Meter Reading	Units Used	Unit Cost	Watering Cost	Times Watered	Cost Each Time	Miscellaneous Notes
03/29/23	7403.1	n/a	\$0.899	n/a	n/a	n/a	Increased run times 32%
04/08/23	7445.1	42.0	\$0.899	\$37.76	2	\$18.88	Decreased run times 8%
04/15/23	7470.5	25.4	\$0.899	\$22.83	2	\$11.42	No help from rain sensor
04/22/23	7483.2	12.7	\$0.947	\$12.03	1	\$12.03	1 rain event
04/29/23	7496.0	12.8	\$0.947	\$12.12	1	\$12.12	1 rain event
05/06/23	7520.8	24.8	\$0.947	\$23.49	2	\$11.74	No help from rain sensor
05/13/23	7544.4	23.6	\$0.947	\$22.35	2	\$11.17	No help from rain sensor
05/20/23	7572.8	28.4	\$0.880	\$24.99	2	\$12.50	Increased run times 37%
05/27/23	7572.8	0.0	\$0.880	\$0.00	0	n/a	2 rain events
06/03/23	7589.7	16.9	\$0.880	\$14.87	1	\$14.87	1 rain event
06/10/23	7623.4	33.7	\$0.880	\$29.66	2	\$14.83	No help from rain sensor
06/17/23	7662.3	38.9	\$0.880	\$34.23	2	\$17.12	No help from rain sensor
06/24/23	7703.4	41.1	\$0.880	\$36.17	2	\$18.08	No help from rain sensor
07/01/23	7736.6	33.2	\$0.880	\$29.22	2	\$14.61	No help from rain sensor
07/08/23	7769.9	33.3	\$0.880	\$29.30	2	\$14.65	No help from rain sensor
07/15/23	7786.1	16.2	\$0.880	\$14.26	1	\$14.26	1 rain event

 Saturday Readings

 Normal cost of watering  
 5 start times instead of 4

**Note:** Rain sensor prevented watering 6 times in 3-1/2 months saving about \$83

To help keep my meters readable, I removed a bucket full of dirt from inside the box and replaced it with white stones:



415

IRR

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NEPTUNE

5/8 T-10

06-16

3026

10778610

GALLONS