

METER TESTING AND REPLACEMENT IS ALWAYS A GOOD RETURN OF REVENUE. "TAKE CARE OF YOUR METERS AND THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!"

Water meters are the heart and cash registers for water Utilities. Long before a meter will totally quit registering from wearing out it will get slow, particularly on low flows. I'm not referring to the meter that has stopped because of sand, pipe scale, ice or hot water. These are all natural enemies of any cold water meter. Rather, I'm referring to the meter that is in service year after year, and because it has a larger reading this month than it did last month, it is never questioned! Meters like other instruments with moving parts, will wear gradually. This gradual decrease in accuracy over a few months is so small that it will not be noted by the meter readings. But over a period of many years (and some meters have been left in service for over (25) Twenty - Five years without attention). The degree of service will be substantial. No definite time can be established which will pertain to all meters in all systems. This is due to the many types, brands of meters, soil conditions, and climate conditions. As a minimum I suggest that all systems have a 10% Change-out program per year. This will keep good record of water used, water loss, and increase revenue. In addition, each water Utility has a moral obligation to treat all customers the same.

Other than the 10% per year change-out program, another source of keeping meters fairly in-line is to test or change- out meters by the following rule of thumb:

Meter size inch	Displacement	Compound	Current	Fire Service
5/8"	10	–	–	–
3/4"	8	–	–	–
1"	6	–	–	–
1 1/2"	4	4	4	–
2"	4	4	4	–
3"	3	3	3	–
4"	2	2	2	2
5"	–	1	1	1
6"	1	1	1	1
8"	–	1	1	1

Small meters 5/8" to 3/4" are best changed out. Due to the cost of larger meters it is best to have them tested in place and restructured or calibrated in place. Most water equipment vendors offer this service. It pays to take quotes from several vendors for best service and price quotes.

“State a good 10% per year replacement program and watch them dollars increase!”

See you all soon
Michael L. Mc Fadden