

## Be Kind to Your Meter Reader



Residential water and wastewater bills are generated from quarterly readings taken by meter readers from the Bureau of Utility Operation. Water meters record the consumption of water and are only on water lines, not sewer lines. There are about 87,500 meters, which are read quarterly for a total of about 350,000 readings per year! In addition, meter readers are responsible for rechecking readings, investigating leaks, turning water service on and off and replacing older meters with new ones.

Needless to say, with hundreds of meters to read daily, your meter reader must be able to quickly access your water meter to insure accurate and timely readings so that your utility account will be charged correctly. Every time a Meter reader can get a quick and accurate reading on the first visit to a property, it helps keep utility costs down and rates stable for everyone.

So it is important to be considerate to your meter reader by insuring that your water meter is easily accessible.

Below are some tips for "being kind" to your meter reader:

Cut back grass, weeds, shrubs, bushes and trees that cover or block the way to the meter. Avoid planting flowers, trees or shrubbery that will impede the way to the meter. Having to "tip toe" around delicate plants and flowers can be difficult and time consuming for your meter reader who does not want to damage your special garden treasures.



Don't forget your meter in the fall and winter months. A meter can easily become hidden under piles of fallen leaves. When removing leaves from your property, remember to keep your meter clear and accessible. During the winter as you clear ice and snow from sidewalks and driveways, be sure your meter is

- Do not place objects so as to block access to the meter vault. Some of the items our meter readers have found blocking meters include: automobiles, trailers, boats, garbage cans, construction equipment, piles of dirt, gravel, mulch, lumber and other building supplies. Also if the meter is located behind a gate or fence, arrange access for the meter reader prior to the actual time of the reading.
- Make sure pets are secured and not obstructing access to the meter vault. Although your pet may seem friendly to you, the meter reader is a stranger and his/her presence in your pet's "territory" may provoke an unwelcome response.
- It is always a good idea to ensure that your home address is clearly displayed. This is important not only for the meter reader, but also for emergency personnel who may need to find your home quickly.

So to save time and money, be "meter friendly" and help our readers find and read your meter accurately the first time every time!