



New Meter FAQs

Question: What happened to the parking meters?

Answer: The City of Houston has removed many of the outdated parking meters and introduced solar-powered pay stations to downtown Houston. The new meters are multi-space “pay and display” parking meters, meaning users may pay at the meter, then display the receipt on their dash.

Question: How do I use the new meters?

Answer: With three ways to pay, (coins – nickels, dimes, quarters or dollar coins – bills – or credit card – VISA or MasterCard), there are just three easy steps to follow.

First, insert coins, bills or credit card and indicate the time. Next push the print button for your receipt. Finally, place your receipt “face-up” on the dashboard of your car – it’s that easy! Please note the meters do not give change.

Question: Where do I find the new pay stations?

Answer: The new pay stations are conveniently located on the sidewalks. Directional signs are placed to direct commuters to each pay station.

Question: What is a Downtown Hopper Pass?

Answer: By purchasing a Downtown Hopper Pass for \$6 at any pay station, you are allowed to park at multiple metered spaces, or “hop,” throughout the Central Business District for as long as each meter allows. Time limits still apply to each meter, but you may hop around during the day for dining, shopping etc. You may park anywhere along the street curb there is metered space, except restricted areas indicated with red striping or signage.

Question: Do I take my receipt with me?

Answer: The receipt is perforated. The top part must be displayed “face-up” on the dashboard of your car. You may take the bottom portion with you to remind you of the meter’s expiration time.

Question: What if I’m leaving my space before the time has expired on my receipt?

Answer: With the receipt, you may move your car to another pay station-metered block in the city and use the remaining time you have already purchased.

Question: Do all metered spaces have the same time limits?

Answer: No. Meter time varies according to location, keeping more spaces available and enhancing a smooth flow of traffic. Be sure to check the time limit when parking.

Question: Will this project expand city-wide?

Answer: Yes. Once the pilot program in the CBD has proven successful, a review will determine the effectiveness of the project. The Public Parking Commission will evaluate the results and make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. Eventually, all outdated parking meters will be replaced with the new parking pay stations.

Question: How are the new parking meters powered?

Answer: The pay stations are solar powered with a battery backup.

Question: What will happen to the outdated meters?

Answer: The outdated meters will be relocated or sold.

Parking Management is a division of the City of Houston Convention and Entertainment Facilities Department. In addition to servicing and maintaining almost 6,000 on-street parking spaces across the Greater Houston area, Parking Management enforces parking regulations for all commercial and residential areas, thereby contributing to pedestrian safety and a smooth flow of traffic. Parking Management also encourages parking awareness and supports public transit initiatives.

For more information about Parking Management, please call 713-837-0311 or visit www.houstonparking.org.