



PORT WASHINGTON WATER DISTRICT

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Fact Sheet Concerning Health Effects and Radio Read Water Meters

Radio frequency emitted by water smart meters is well below the limits set by Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and it is below levels produced by other common household devices such as cell phones, baby monitors, satellite TVs, and microwaves. In fact, you would have to be exposed to the radio frequency from a water smart meter for approximately 375 years to obtain a dose equivalent to that of one year of 15-minutes-per-day cell phone use.

Comparison of RF Power Density in the Everyday Environment

Equipment	Power Density (microwatts per square centimeter, or $\mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$)
Adjacent to a gas/ water Smart Meter (1 foot)	0.00166
Adjacent to an electric Smart Meter (10 feet)	0.1
Adjacent to an electric Smart Meter (1 foot)	8.8
Microwave oven nearby (1 meter)	10
Wireless routers, laptop computers, cyber cafés, etc. maximum (~1 meter for laptops, 2-5 meters for access points)	10 to 20
Cell phone (at head)	30 to 10,000
Walkie-Talkie (at head)	500 to 42,000

References:

- <https://www.fcc.gov/general/radio-frequency-safety-0>
- https://transition.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Documents/bulletins/oet65/oet65b.pdf
- <https://www.fcc.gov/engineering-technology/electromagnetic-compatibility-division/radio-frequency-safety/faq/rf-safety#Q2>
- https://www.neptunetg.com/uploadedFiles/Content/About/White_Papers/12-NTG-176%20WP%20RF%20Health%20Effects%2005.12.pdf

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