

WLM Series Water Level Meter

Operating Instructions

Updated: Feb 14, 2004



GENERAL

The WLM Series Water Level Meter is a self contained, portable instrument. This meter is used for measuring static water level in wells or small diameter samplers.

The WLM is constructed of lightweight aluminum and machined solid plastic components to provide a more rugged construction than injection molded plastic components. The electronics module can be removed so that the entire reel and tape can be cleaned and decontaminated. The tapes are marked in feet, 1/10 ft (black numbers) and 1/100 ft. graduations and meet international standards for accuracy. US GGG-T-106E (U.S.A.) and EEC CLASS II (Europe)

Probes are constructed of stainless steel and teflon.

OPERATION

All units are equipped with a test button, so that the circuit and battery can be tested before beginning field work. Push and hold down the test button for several seconds to verify that the battery will be able to keep working in the field. A battery life of 2-3 years is normal, provided the buzzer and light are not on.

Verify polarity. Although difficult, it is possible to insert the battery into the drawer incorrectly, so please verify polarity. If the battery needs to be forced into the drawer it is probably backwards.

During a pump test, the sensitivity knob can be turned fully counterclockwise to turn the unit off.

SENSITIVITY ADJUSTMENT

The WLM meters are designed for simple operation in the field. All meters are equipped with an external adjustment for water quality to provide faster water detects in very pure water. For very pure water (no dissolved solids) turn the external knob clockwise to the 2 or 3 o'clock position. For very salty water, turn the knob counterclockwise to the 10 or 11 o'clock position. This prevents bridging which occurs when the probe being wet is detected as the probe being in water. Please note: distilled water cannot be detected at any setting, so avoid using the deionized water (distilled water) generally used in the cleaning process since the ions conduct the electric current that activates the circuit.

MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

The meter should be stored with the tape and strain relief under very slight tension, just enough to keep the tape from unwinding. Excessive tension will wear out the strain relief unnecessarily and prematurely.

The probe can be stored without the need to clean it. When cleaning the probe do not use organic solvents. In the event lime or calcium deposits on the probe electrodes, remove the battery and soak the probe in water and vinegar, 2 parts water one part vinegar overnight.

Since all units have a removable electronics module, the reel and tape assembly can be cleaned using full immersion (providing the electrical connector in the reel is kept out to the water) or using water from a hose.

PROBE OR CABLE REPLACEMENT

Detailed directions are included with the new probe or tape. Generally the tape and probe wear out at the same rate and are replaced as a single assembly.

TROUBLE SHOOTING CHART

What It's Doing	Cause	Remedy
Meter does not sound when the test button is pushed.	Battery is dead	Install new battery.
	Battery is installed incorrectly.	Check battery position & polarity.
	Sensitivity is set too low.	Adjust sensitivity. Turn knob clock wise and or make certain you are not using de-ionized or distilled water.
Meter does not sound when the probe is in water, but works with the test button during lab testing.	Water is too pure.	Use tap water. Do not use deionized or distilled water to test the meter.
	Probe is dirty.	Clean probe with vinegar water solution.
	Battery is almost dead.	Replace battery.
Meter sounds constantly after being removed from water. Probe is dirty	Probe is dirty.	Oil or dust is absorbing water & creating a path of water to "bridge" one electrode to the other, resulting in a "wet" probe being detected as being in water - clean with hot soapy water.
	Sensitivity is set too high.	Turn the water sensing knob counter clockwise.
	Water is bridging the internal test button or circuit board. (very unlikely)	Remove the battery and dry the internal components & circuit board.
Meter does not sound when the probe is in water, while taking readings in the field.	The water has very low conductivity. (water is very pure-quite common in New England States and in North-Eastern USA).	Increase the water sensitivity fully clockwise, in very rare cases consultants drop in 1-3 grams of salt into the well.
	Water is contaminated by solvents or hydrocarbons.	Increase sensitivity or use the INT hydrocarbon detector that allows the interface to be measured.