



Water Meter, Water Hydrant and Water Usage Policy

Effective March 16, 2009

General Statement

These policies should apply to all water users and hydrants of the City of Arlington. The City of Arlington reserves the right to change and/or update this policy in its entirety or any part of the policy at any time without notice.

Providing Water Meters for New Properties

The City of Arlington will provide a residential 5/8" water meter for water service line hookups. The price of the 5/8" water meter is included in the WAC (Water Access Charge). The cost difference of any meter size greater than 5/8" will be the responsibility of the property owner or person making the request. The city reserves the right to include in the cost of the meter, any shipping and tax, along with administrative handling expenses.

Providing Water Meters for Existing Properties

The City of Arlington will provide a residential 5/8" water meter for water service line hookups to existing properties that were never hooked up to the City's water supply. The price of the water meter is included in the WAC. The cost difference of any meter size great than 5/8" will be the responsibility of the property owner or person making the request. The city reserves the right to include in the cost of the meter, any shipping and tax, along with administrative handling expenses. New service line connections to properties that were once hooked up to the City's water supply will not be charged a WAC, but will be required to purchase a water meter. The price and the size of the water meter will be the responsibility of the person making the request. The city reserves the right to include in the cost of the meter, any shipping and tax, along with administrative handling expenses.

Meter Types

New water meters will be of the brand and technology type that the City of Arlington chooses to provide.

Water Meter Fittings/Components

Water meters require fittings/components capable of transitioning from the meter connecting flanges to standard plumbing. The standard fittings/components provided by meter vendors will be stocked by the City of Arlington. These fittings/components will be provided with the cost being the responsibility of the person making the request. The city reserves the right to include in the cost of the fittings, any shipping and tax, along with administrative handling expenses.

Meter Locations and Meter Damage

The property owners will be responsible for making sure that the location where the water meter will be installed is a location that is easily accessible for future maintenance. The location must also be protected from temperatures that can cause damage to the water meter. Any damage to water meters or any of their components that causes the meter to malfunction in anyway, slow down or stop recording will not be allowed. Damaged meters and any components will be repaired if possible or replaced by the City of Arlington or its designee with the cost being invoiced to the property owner. The city reserves the right to include in the cost, any repair labor along with shipping and tax, and also administrative handling expenses.

Water Meter and Fire Hydrant Tampering and Theft of Water

Water meters are installed to meter water that is for sale from the City water system and are not to be tampered with or removed by any person other than the City of Arlington or its designee. All water usage taps within a property owners premises shall be made after the water meter (downstream of the meter) so that all water usage is recorded. Fire hydrants are to be used mainly for fire protection and for water main flushing and maintenance. Only authorized representatives of the city may be allowed to operate and use fire hydrants. For the purpose of the previous sentence, authorized personnel shall refer to city maintenance staff, including the cities designated water/wastewater contract operations personnel and fire department personnel that are acting in an official capacity of the City of Arlington. Any unauthorized connections to fire hydrants including connections that jeopardize the city water supply system by making a connection that could cross-contaminate the city water system shall be considered theft. Theft of water prior to a water meter along with tampering or removal of a water meter or un-authorized tampering with a fire hydrant by any person other than by the City of Arlington or its designee shall be considered theft and will be handled as such by the City Attorney. Any theft charges as prosecuted by the City Attorney may be in the form of a fine and may also include any prosecution charges.

Estimated and Billed Water Usage in the Case of Tampered Water Meters or Unauthorized Fire Hydrant Water Connections

In the case of water meters that have been tampered with or fire hydrants that have had un-authorized water connections and usage, an estimate water usage will be made by the City and billed to the property owner. This estimated and billed usage in the case of water meter tampering will be based on actual true readings (as determined by city staff) from the property from a period of 4-previous months that would be similar in usage habits as determined by the City of Arlington. Unauthorized fire hydrant connections and water usage shall be billed based on an estimate amount determined by the city. This estimated water usage may be in addition to a theft charge as determined and prosecuted by the City Attorney which may be in the form of a fine and may also include any prosecution charges.

Water Meter Maintenance and Replacements

Water meters may be changed-out periodically by the City or its designee as part of a change-out program or as routine maintenance to keep accurate water meters in the field to provide consistent and accurate water readings for the City of Arlington to use for billing purposes. The cost of the water meter change-out will be borne by the City if the meter that is being changed-out does not change in size or is being replaced with a 5/8" meter. The property owner will be responsible for the difference of the cost of a meter that is increased in sized from the one currently in place.

Entry to Inspect/Repair/Replace Meters

The City of Arlington or its designee may from time to time request entry into private property for the purpose of reading, inspecting, maintaining or replacing the inside water meter. The City will schedule with the property owner a convenient time to gain entry to complete the above work. If entry is denied, the City of Arlington at its discretion may disconnect the water service for failure of the property owner to allow the City or its designee entry for proper maintenance, inspection or replacement of the water meter.