



LEHIGH COUNTY AUTHORITY

RESIDENTIAL WATER METER INSTALLATION POLICY

The following shall be the policy of the Lehigh County Authority (Authority) for the installation of domestic water meters on new services:

1. All service line construction shall be as required by the Authority in its current "Rules and Regulations" and "General Specifications for Water System Construction".
2. Unless installation in a pit has been approved by the Authority, all water meters shall be on the customer's service line after a shut-off valve which shall be located immediately inside the home wall. A backflow prevention device shall be installed immediately after the meter. A second shut-off valve shall then be installed after the backflow device. There shall be no connection made prior to the location of the meter. A four-strand "radio read-out" wire, as specified by the Authority and supplied by others, shall be installed from the point of the meter setting to an exterior location just below the electric meter setting.
3. Water meters and backflow prevention devices will be supplied and installed by the Authority.
4. Prior to the completion of the plumbing system within the home, an Authority-manufactured idler shall be inserted in the line where the future meter will be located. The idler will be perforated so as to prohibit the unauthorized use of water within the home. Idlers will be available at the Authority office and will be issued upon payment of the applicable fees. Idlers must be installed when the meter and backflow device installation is scheduled. The Authority must be notified at least two days in advance for any installation. After the meter is installed, Authority personnel will attach a radio transceiver unit to the "radio read-out" wire on the exterior wall near the electric meter to allow the meter to be read via radio signal.
5. Plumbers may be provided with a solid idler to be used for testing the workmanship of the plumbing system, as required. The solid idler may not be used for supplying water for construction or any other purpose. Use of a solid idler or solid piping will be considered a violation of the Authority's Rules and Regulations and the appropriate penalties may be assessed against the violator.
6. A meter and backflow device will not be installed if the curbstop is not accessible, if the customer's service line fails to pass a pressure test, if a thermal expansion device is not installed on the domestic water system within the home, or if there is no continuity measured between the meter and the transceiver. Curb boxes should be level with the finished grade. If the above criteria are not met, a Site Revisitation Charge will be assessed the party responsible for scheduling the meter installation.
7. If water is required within the home prior to construction completion, a construction meter may be issued, or the permanent meter installation may be completed. For either a construction or permanent installation, protection of the meter from damage will be the responsibility of the party requesting the meter installation. The cost for metered construction water shall be in accordance with the Authority's Schedule of Water Rates.
8. Upon change of ownership of the home, the Authority shall be notified and a new Application for Service shall be filed. Thereafter, a final meter reading will be taken and a final water bill issued.