

Water & Sewer Construction Requirements

REVISED OCTOBER 2012

1. All material and construction are required to be in accordance with the [construction standards and specifications](#). During physical inspection, the County reserves the right to reject the use of any material found to be defective or not conforming to standards and specifications.
2. Before the start of construction, the developer must provide the following information and/or evidence of compliance with all applicable regulations and laws:
 - The name and address of the contractor hired to work on the project are needed. The contractor must be registered in Virginia and must provide sufficient evidence of prior experience as a prime contractor in the construction of water mains and/or installation of sanitary sewers. Further, the contractor must furnish a letter with a list of materials and suppliers for the proposed project.
 - A right of way permit is required to work in County streets. For excavations in the state right of way, the date and number of all permits required by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) must be provided.
 - If any easements are needed, two copies of the recorded easement must be provided, including the place, date and reference of the recorded easement, prior to plan approval.
 - Written notice of the tentative starting date of construction, which must be a minimum of one week following the date of notice, is needed. In addition, the developer must provide the names and phone numbers of two emergency contacts.
 - Existing water services may be allowed for construction purposes only with prior approval. In these cases, installation of a water meter for “water only” use can be requested by calling 703-228-6570. The meter won’t be provided without evidence that the contractor has installed an ASSE-1013 approved, reduced-pressure, backflow prevention (high hazard) device per the Arlington County Plumbing Code.
 - Construction can’t begin until the above items have been completed, arrangements have been made for the required inspection service and we have approved the start date.
3. All construction must be accomplished from approved plans, specifications and cut sheets submitted by a state-registered engineer and approved by the County. To avoid construction delays, all necessary test hole information must be obtained prior to plan approval. Water main valves, meters and appurtenances can only be operated by Arlington County water personnel.
4. No existing water mains, fire hydrants or sanitary sewers can be taken out of service or made inaccessible by the contractor without prior approval.
5. Sanitary sewer laterals are privately owned and maintained. It’s the responsibility of the contractor to verify the location of all existing laterals within the limits of construction. Appropriate permits and inspections for work on any laterals must be obtained from Inspection Services. Any laterals abandoned with the project will be capped at the sewer main.

6. In cases where a proposed sanitary sewer is to be connected to an existing sanitary manhole, the existing manhole must be reconstructed or replaced by the developer as directed by the County to meet current standards. All new connections to the existing manholes need to be core-drilled and booted just above the existing bench, with the flow channels reshaped as needed.
7. On completion of construction, all required final tests must be performed in the presence of a County representative. Water and sewer service connections won't be made until the water and/or sewer mains and appurtenances have been approved and accepted. The contractor is responsible for dechlorinating all chlorinated water, regardless of the concentration. All superchlorinated water requires a [dechlorination plan](#) that must be submitted to and approved by the County. This plan must describe how and where the water will be discharged.
8. The contractor must maintain backfill for utility excavations until the County has accepted the proposed water and/or sewer main. Also, all surfaces over utility excavations must be restored to their original condition or finished as per the proposed design before the project is accepted. Pavement patching for utility cuts in public streets must be performed in accordance with County standards and specifications or as per VDOT Road and Bridge Specifications, depending on street ownership. Prior to final paving, the contractor must adjust all existing valve boxes and sanitary sewer manhole frames and covers as per County standards, remove all abandoned sanitary manholes and valve boxes over abandoned water mains, abandon all pipes in accordance with County standards and complete all necessary water main "cuts and caps."
9. On completion, approval and acceptance of water and/or sewer mains and appurtenances, the contractor must submit a television inspection and DVD report in a County-approved format. Prior to any bond reduction/release or approval/acceptance of water and/or sewer mains and appurtenances, the developer's registered engineer must give DES a set of Mylar tracings and a CD with PDFs that show the as-built conditions per County standards, along with a signed statement from the engineer that the work is acceptable.
10. Prior to the final acceptance of a project, the developer must request — in writing — that we discontinue all existing water services used for the project, at which time the County will remove the water meter and issue a final bill. The contractor is responsible for removing all existing meter boxes related to the services being discontinued, as well as disconnecting existing water services at the main by excavating, turning off the corporation stop and disconnecting the service from the corporation stop.