

PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Last Revised: May 12, 2021

Can PVWC do a hydrant flow test for me?

PVWC will operate the valves for the applicant to perform their own flow test. The applicant must provide the required pressure and flow gauges. Send your flow test request to applications@pvwc.com. PVWC will reply with a map of the system in your area. You must mark the desired test hydrants and return it to our office and we will contact you to schedule an appointment. Hydrant flow tests appointments are conducted on Thursday mornings in the order for which they were received. Hydrant flow tests are not performed between December 1 and March 15.

Can you tell me the size and location of the water main that services my property?

Send an email with the address and block and lot of your property to applications@pvwc.com. We will email you a copy of our mains in the area.

Is PVWC responsible for maintaining my water service?

As per PVWC standards, the service from the main to the curb box is owned and maintained by PVWC. The service from the curb box to the building is owned and maintained by the property owner.

What meter should I install?

Domestic meters are provided and installed by PVWC. The interior building plumbing must be prepared for a horizontal install and backflow prevention must be in place. See the rate sheets and meter spread information.

Is metering of fire flow required?

PVWC does not meter fire flow for billing purposes. A detector meter is required on the backflow device (see Fire Line Backflow Device information).

Can you size my services for me?

The sizing of the general service and fire lines are the responsibility of the applicant and the design engineer. The design engineer must prepare hydraulic analysis calculations to determine if the flow and pressure requirements for your new development are available from the existing water supply line. A licensed engineer or plumber shall provide certification that the lines have been sized in accordance with all applicable standards.

Will two separate taps to the main line be required for the domestic service and fire service?

For new construction, both the domestic and fire should be served via one tap to the main line unless otherwise approved by PVWC. One tap is then branched to provide the domestic and fire service. (see PVWC "General and Fire Service" detail).

Can I connect my general service line to my fire service line?

There shall be no interconnection between the general service and the fire line and no connection of the general service to the fire line after the curb stop or gate valve.

Can I put a hydrant on my service?

Where feasible, proposed fire hydrants shall be installed within the right-of-way and connected to the distribution line. PVWC shall mark the hydrants as public hydrants. Fire hydrants proposed on private property are not maintained by PVWC. Additionally, the applicant's engineer shall verify that the fire line has the capacity to accommodate both sprinkler fire flow and the private hydrant fire flow.

I have a proposed mixed-use/multi-family development. Is each tenant required to have a separate meter?

If requesting more than one meter, contact PVWC prior to submitting a Water Service Application.

Must I provide a backflow preventer?

Yes, a backflow preventer is required on the fire service as per the fire code. A backflow preventer is required on all commercial, industrial and residential development services per the PVWC Cross Connection Control program.

Fire Line Backflow Device

- The type of device will be determined by N.F.P.A fire codes. All devices will be the “detector” type and the meter shall be a Neptune T-10 with a procoder register that will record in cubic feet.
- The Contractor may use any Neptune meter vendor. One possible vendor is RIO Supply: 856-719-0081.
- Once device is installed, it will be tested by a certified backflow tester and the results shall be sent to PVWC.
- Notify PVWC when the backflow device has been installed.

Domestic Water Line Backflow Device

- A reduced pressure zone backflow device is required for all non-residential, mixed-use development and temporary construction services. A testable double check valve is required for residential development.
- The backflow device shall be installed after the water meter.
- Once device is installed, it will be tested by a certified backflow tester and the results shall be sent to PVWC.
- The service meter will not be installed if backflow prevention is not in place.

Must I install a meter pit/hot box?

Meter(s) shall be installed in a basement or utility room unless otherwise approved by PVWC.

What if I need a pump to achieve my required fire flow?

Passaic Valley does not provide guidance on, or review, fire pump calculations.

There are two mains at my property. Can I tap into the 30” main instead of the 8” main?

Larger mains are transmission mains. All customers must be connected to the smaller distribution mains. For new construction/renovation projects, existing services must be removed from transmission mains and installed on distribution mains.

Can I reuse the existing service tap to my proposed development?

PVWC requires that all applicants install new taps for new development. Additionally, the developer must decommission abandoned service connections at the main and remove the associated curb box / meter pit to two feet below finished grade.

Can I use fittings that contain lead?

All fittings and materials must be ‘lead free’ and meet the most current standards.

Can I construct my drainage structures on top of your water main?

All design and construction conflicts with our water system infrastructure need to be discussed with the PVWC Engineering Department.

How do I obtain temporary water for construction?

PVWC does not allow connections to any of our hydrants for temporary water. There are two options for temporary water. (1) Bring a tanker to 1525 Main Ave, Clifton to be filled. Backflow protection is required; an air gap is an acceptable method of backflow when filling tanker trucks. (2) Complete an application for construction of a temporary service connection.

Do I need a permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water?

PVWC does not have a Master Permit. Your engineer should determine if you need a BSDW permit. Please see NJAC 7:10 and <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/pa10det.pdf> for further information.