



Water Connection Permits

The Milwaukee Water Works operates an underground water distribution system with over 2000 miles of water mains. There are about 160,000 active connections to this system.

The pipe linking a water main to a customer's premise is called a "water service" or a lateral. This pipe falls into one of two categories - "tap" or "branch". Tap service pipes range in size from 1" to 2" in diameter while branch service pipes measure between 3" and 12" in diameter.

When a new connection to a water main is needed, a permit must be obtained and the [required fees](#) paid. Fees range from \$192 for a 1" tap to over \$4,000 for a 12" branch connection. The fee covers tapping into the water main and provision of valves to be installed at the water main and at the property line. City staff will tap the main. Water Works' crews will usually perform this work within 5 days of permit issuance. The customer must engage a licensed plumber to install water service piping and the valves.

The fees described above only cover work from the water main to the customer's property line. If a new water service will be extended into a building, an extension fee must also be paid. Extension fees range from \$240 to over \$6,000 and cover furnishing, testing, and installation of a water meter on the premises.

When water mains are constructed in an undeveloped area of the city, water services are usually constructed from the main to the front property line of subdivided lots. These services are called "improvement taps" and allow water connections to be made at a future date without cutting the roadway. If an improvement tap exists, only an extension charge will apply when the permit is granted.

The customer must engage a licensed plumber to extend water service piping from the lot line into the building. Work can begin immediately after receipt of the required permit.

Permits are also required for size changes to existing water service piping and water meters. In addition, permits may be granted for limited use of fire hydrants for certain approved purposes which are consistent with the public good.

QUICK FACTS

Application Fee: Lateral to Property Line (\$192 to \$4,000+)

Related Fees: Property Line to Building (\$240 to \$6,000+)

Final Approval Given By: Development Center in consultation with the Milwaukee Water Works.

Typical Review & Approval Time: 1 day to 1 week

For More Information Call: (414) 286-8208

