

Hydrant Meters

Frequently Asked Questions

Who may rent a hydrant meter?

Charles County only rents hydrant meters to licensed contractors.

What are the fees involved in renting a hydrant meter?

A deposit is required. Also, there is a monthly rental fee and a fee for water used.

How am I billed for hydrant meter usage?

Charles County bills hydrant meter customers twice a year. Our fees are based upon the current rate per thousand gallons. You will receive a letter requesting that you bring the meter in for a visual inspection and also to get a reading usually in June and December.

How long can I keep a hydrant meter?

There are no time limits on rentals; we ask that you return the meter when you no longer have a need for it so it will be available for those who need it.

Are there designated hydrants for use?

Only hydrants located on the Waldorf/White Plains, Bryan's Road, and Swan Point systems are available for use. Meters rented from Charles County may only be used within the County. Charles County issued hydrant meters are not to be used on the Indian Head or La Plata water systems.

Why do I have to use a backflow prevention assembly?

Charles County requires the use of backflow prevention assemblies to prevent the contamination of the water distribution system. Charles County requires the use of an ASSE 1013 RPZ; no other backflow assembly will be accepted.

Can I fax you my backflow test report?

No, because the form is three part carbon, we require the white original.

How long do I have to return the backflow test report after renting a meter?

The Department of Utilities must have an original, passing test report **before** you are allowed to connect to any hydrant. Violators will lose their deposit.

May I remove the gate valve?

No, the gate valve is used to regulate the flow of water. Do not use the hydrant to regulate flow; this may cause a potential water hammer situation, or undermine the hydrant's foundation.

May I rent a hydrant meter to fill my pool or water my lawn?

No, Charles County does not rent hydrant meters to residential customers.

Can I have a submeter installed to fill my pool or water my lawn?

Charles County no longer allows submeters.

Where do I go to obtain a hydrant meter?

You should first call the Department of Utilities at 301-609-7400 between the hours of 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. to confirm that a meter is available. Meters are stored at the Mattawoman Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 5310 Hawthorne Road.