

## CARE OF HYDRANT METERS

In the winter, it is especially important to keep meters drained and in a warm environment when they are not in use. Gate valves are easily damaged when water retained in the meter after usage freezes. Check the gasket regularly for damage.

If your meter malfunctions, return it to the Hydrant Office for an exchange as soon as possible to prevent further charges. (With a garden meter, substitute ¾" for any reference to the 2" gate valve.)

## HYDRANT USE VIOLATIONS

- Use of a hydrant meter with an expired permit
- Failure to display a permit sign
- Use of an unapproved hydrant
- Reducing 3" meter to less than 1½". Garden hose-sized meters are available at the hydrant meter office
- Use of a hydrant meter without a certified Reduced Pressure Backflow preventer or air gap
- Using a pipe wrench or tool other than a proper hydrant wrench to open and close the hydrant
- Using a hydrant meter issued by another municipality or using a hydrant meter from Aurora in another city
- Transporting water beyond Aurora's jurisdictional boundaries

If a violation occurs, Aurora Water has the right to confiscate the meter and apply the current fines plus any usage, damage and labor.

Please report any fire hydrant operational problems to Aurora Water T&D at 303.326.8120 and any meter problems to the Hydrant Meter Rental Office at 303.326.8083.

## RATES & USE GUIDLINES



Please contact the Hydrant Meter Office at 303.326.8083 for current monthly service charge and water rates.

Sec. 138-156. - Use of fire hydrants.

**(a)** It shall be unlawful for any person to connect or in any way draw water from any fire hydrant located within the city which is served by city water unless such person has first obtained a permit issued by the director of water or his or her duly authorized representative designating the fire hydrant to be used for a specific period of time.

**(b)** Any person who enters a plea of guilty or no contest, or is convicted at trial of violating this section, shall, in addition to any jail sentence ordered, be punished by a fine of not less than \$500.00 for the first offense of this section within a one-year period, or \$1,000.00 for a second or subsequent offense of this section within a one-year period. The court shall have authority to suspend up to half of the fine upon payment of restitution for water used and/or damage to property. In the event no restitution is sought, the court shall have authority to suspend up to half of these fines. (Code 1979, § 39-72; Ord. No. 2005-58, § 1, 8-8-2005; Ord. No. 2005-74, §1, 10-10-2005)

[AURORAGOV.ORG/HYDRANTS](http://AURORAGOV.ORG/HYDRANTS)  
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# Hydrant Meter Requirements



## HYDRANT USAGE REQUIREMENTS

A meter is required at all times when using a hydrant in Aurora. The Fire and Streets departments are exempt from the requirement.

- The meter must be issued by the Aurora Water Hydrant Office for use on a predesignated hydrant. If another hydrant is needed, the Hydrant Meter Office must grant approval.
- When a meter is rented, the specific use for the water must be outlined.
- A deposit must be made for the meter rental. E-checks or credit/debit cards must be used to make a payment for the deposit. Visit [AuroraGov.org/ServiceFees](https://www.aurora.gov/ServiceFees) for current deposit amount and hydrant water rates.
- A hydrant meter sign and permit must be displayed whenever the meter is hooked up to the hydrant. The signage informs city staff and residents that the water usage is authorized and monitored. Lost signs will be charged at the current rate.
- Permits are issued for up to 12 months depending on need. Reading must be reported on a monthly basis by submitting pictures and text via email to [hydrants@auroragov.org](mailto:hydrants@auroragov.org).
- A permit must be presented for examination to any Aurora Police, Aurora Fire or Aurora Water employee upon request.
- The repair cost for a damaged meter or hydrant, including labor, will be charged to the contractor.
- Either a current passing test report for a Reduced Pressure Backflow Prevention assembly or a hard-plumbed air gap piping assembly are required.

Due to the requirements of Article 12 of the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations, the city of Aurora must ensure that no uncontrolled cross-connections exist to its potable drinking water supply. A cross-connection is any connection between its potable water supply and any pipe, fixture, vessel, machinery, tank or reservoir. Please email backflow test results to [backflow@auroragov.org](mailto:backflow@auroragov.org).

## INSTALLATION & USAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Keep the gate valve closed while transporting a meter. Otherwise, the air flow will register as usage, for which you will be charged.
- Flush the fire hydrant before installing the meter for the first time. It does not have to be a hard flush, just enough to get the rust out of the fire hydrant seat. This should not exceed 30 seconds or 50 gallons of water.
- NEVER STAND IN FRONT OF A HYDRANT CAP THAT IS BEING REMOVED.
- Attach the meter to the fire hydrant. Use the supplied wrench or approved fire hydrant wrench to tighten the meter coupling, which will prevent leaks.
- DO NOT USE A PIPE WRENCH ON A FIRE HYDRANT NUT – IT CAN CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE AND MAKE THE HYDRANT INOPERABLE IN AN EMERGENCY.
- The meter is supplied to you with standard fittings. Do not remove them. If the fittings do not work for your purposes, you may add fittings and adapters, but the city configuration must remain intact. If the meter needs to be exchanged or replaced, it is the customer's responsibility to remove their own adapters.
- To turn on the hydrant, make sure the hydrant meter's two-inch gate valve is closed and slowly open the hydrant to pressurize the barrel.
- ALWAYS STAND TO THE SIDE OR BEHIND THE HYDRANT DURING THE OPENING AND CLOSING PROCESS OR WHEN THE HYDRANT IS PRESSURIZED.
- Once the hydrant is pressurized, open the fire hydrant all the way. DO NOT LEAVE THE HYDRANT PARTIALLY OPEN, because it causes pressurized water to vent underground, and may undermine the hydrant. A fully opened hydrant takes about 15 to 20 turns.
- DO NOT APPLY PRESSURE TO THE FIRE HYDRANT WRENCH ONCE FULLY OPENED, or when turning it off. Most hydrant damage occurs by over-torquing the wrench once the hydrant is fully opened or fully closed.

- Use the meter's gate valve to get your water throughout the day. Do not use the hydrant wrench to regulate water flow. Replacing a gate valve with a ball valve is not approved. A quick shut off with a ball valve can cause damage to main lines. Contractors are liable for any damage caused using this type of valve.
- The meter and fire hydrant are your responsibility. Do not leave the wrench attached on the fire hydrant; you are liable for injuries sustained by persons playing with an unattended hydrant and wrench.

## HYDRANT METER PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS

Permits must be renewed prior to the expiration date, and accounts must be in good standing. Please email the following to [hydrants@auroragov.org](mailto:hydrants@auroragov.org):

- Current hydrant location and hydrant number
- Company name
- Contact name and phone number
- Photo of hydrant meter reading
- Photo of current hydrant meter permit
- Photo of the full meter to verify condition

The renewal permit is emailed to the customer and the invoice is sent directly to the company.

## METERS FROM OTHER JURISDICTIONS

Using a hydrant meter from another municipality in Aurora constitutes water theft and is a violation of Aurora Water's policies. All violators will have their meters confiscated, and we will then contact the issuing city to determine what the usage has been since the last renewal date. Based on that reading, we will calculate charges for consumption, one month of service charges, confiscation/trip charge, and all other applicable violation fees. The meter can only be returned upon payment of the fine. Contractors will be required to rent an Aurora Water meter if work continues within the city.