ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

WATER/SEWER ENGINEERING SECTION

PHONE (703) 228-6082

WATER & SEWER

SERVICES

INFORMATION & APPLICATION PACKAGE

REVISED

JULY 2026

JULY 2026

Dear Customer:

Thank you for taking the time to read this information package. We hope you find this information and application package a helpful and easy to use reference for obtaining water and sewer service. If you have any comments or questions, please call 703-228-6082. The DES Customer Contact Center may also be of help and can be reached by calling 703-228-5000 or emailing descontactcenter@arlingtonva.us.

Sincerely,

Water/Sewer Engineering Staff

Requirements for New Connections

1. Customer must fill out an application and pay applicable water service connection and infrastructure availability fees to the Department of Environmental Services (DES), 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 1000, Arlington, VA 22201. A copy of the approved land development plan showing the proposed meter location must be submitted with the application. New water service is required for all proposed construction that requires a separate service. Limited reuse of an existing service is allowed in cases where the service is less than 10 years old and appropriately sized for the new building, as determined by the County.

2. If a new water main in the street is required to serve the building, it must be installed and approved for service. This includes chlorination, pressure testing and bacteriological testing. We allow developers to install all water services from developer-installed water mains. Contact us for details.

3. If a new sanitary sewer main in the street is required to serve the building, it must be installed and approved for service. This includes alignment inspection and infiltration tests.

4. Construction and maintenance of sewer services (sanitary laterals) from the building to the sanitary sewer main are the responsibility of the property owner and must be in place and approved for service by the Inspection Services Division.

5. For water service 2 inches or smaller, the curb and gutter at the proposed meter location must be in place with a stake in the ground marking the proposed location of the meter behind the curb. The meter location must agree with that shown on approved certified building plans, and the area must be clear and finished to grade. The contractor must mark with a stake in the ground the location of existing sanitary sewer lateral.

6. For water service 3 inches or larger, to be installed in a vault, the curb and gutter, if not existing, must be adequately staked out by the developer to allow for proper meter installation by the County. The meter location must agree with that shown on the approved certified building plans, and the area must be clear and finished to grade.

7. After installation of the water service and crock meter by the County, the customer's plumber must connect the public service to the owner's side of the meter and make sure the main valve inside the house or building is in the off position.

8. After the service connection is made, the customer must call DES at 703-228-5000 and request the water service be activated. Then, County staff will install the meter. The utility account will be activated upon this request and will be billed for water/sewer and refuse service if applicable.

9. For house additions in which an upgrade of the water service is required, the applicant is responsible for upgrading the water service line from the house to the meter box prior to installation of the water service.

FIRE FLOW TEST POLICY

1. A $300 fee is charged by the County to perform a fire flow test. This fee is charged to meet costs incurred by the County in performing the test.

2. If recent (less than one year old) fire flow test information is available in the County's files in the vicinity of the desired test location, the information will be provided to the applicant at no charge.

3. If it is determined that a new fire flow test is needed, a written request and an appropriate fee must accompany the fire flow test request from the applicant prior to the commencement of the test.

FIRE HYDRANT PERMIT POLICY

From the Arlington County Code, Chapter 8.1, Fire Prevention Code (Updated 4-2025):

§ 8.1-11. Penalty and continuing violation. A. Any person, owner, firm, entity, or corporation who violates any section of this Ordinance, fails to comply with any provisions of the Arlington County Fire Prevention Code or of the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code , or violates or fails to comply with any order made there under, or who fails to comply with such an order within the time fixed therein, shall separately, for each and every such violation and noncompliance respectively, be guilty of a violation of this Ordinance and shall, upon conviction, be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor in accordance with Virginia law, including by confinement to jail for not more than twelve (12) months and/or a fine of not more than $2,500.00 . Each day that a violation continues after service of notice, as provided for in the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, shall be deemed a separate offense. B. The imposition of the criminal penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the County from enforcing any administrative remedies set forth elsewhere in this code or the Code of Arlington County, Virginia, 1957 as amended or preclude the County from instituting appropriate civil action, including but not limited to injunction, to restrain, correct or otherwise abate a violation of this Ordinance. The suspension or revocation of any license, permit, certificate or other privilege conferred by the County shall not be regarded as a penalty.

901.8 Removal of or tampering with equipment. It shall be unlawful for any person to silence, reset, remove, tamper with, damage, destroy, use without just cause or authorization, or otherwise disturb any fire detection and alarm system, fire suppression system, or other fire appliance required by this code or installed in any building or structure within the Arlington County except for the purpose of extinguishing fire, training purposes, recharging, making necessary repairs, or when approved by the fire code official. * * *

901.8.3 Fire hydrants, fire department connections and water mains. It shall be unlawful for any person to open, use, tamper with, damage or destroy any fire hydrant, valve, fire department connection or water main within the Arlington County limits, except that fire departments may use such hydrants for firefighting or training purposes. Exception: Hydrants may be used when a permit has been obtained for such use from the public authority or utility having jurisdiction over the fire hydrant or water line(s).

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1. Fire Hydrant Permits are issued by the Department of Environmental Services on a limited basis. Email wssfireflow@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-6553 to arrange an appointment.

2. Fire Hydrant Permits will only be considered for work related to approved Demolition, Building, Right-Of-Way, and VDOT permits, or tasks associated with current Arlington County contracts.

3. Fire Hydrant Permits will NOT be issued to fill pools, for car washes, to irrigate landscaping on private property, when an existing metered water source is available, or if vehicle/pedestrian traffic obstructions will be created.

4. The basic fee is $480 for 3 months or any portion thereof. In cases where a hydrant meter would be required for high usage and/or discharges to the sanitary sewer system, the current water and sewer billing rates will apply.

5. The applicant shall supply and install an ASSE-1013 approved, reduced-pressure, backflow prevention (high hazard) device per the Arlington County Plumbing Code.

6. The contractor is responsible for dechlorinating all water – regardless of the concentration. All super chlorinated water requires a dechlorination plan that shall be approved by Arlington County on a case-by-case basis.

7. Any remaining time on a Fire Hydrant Permit shall be voided when the applicable job has been completed or if any associated work permits/licenses/documents expire or become invalidated.

Contact Information

For more information or to obtain a Fire Hydrant Permit, please contact wssfireflow@arlingtonva.us or call (703) 228-6553.

RATES AND FEES

EXCERPTS FROM THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CODE

CHAPTER 26, UTILITIES

Different classes of customers pay different rates based on the different costs which each customer places on the water system. Customers are classified as residential, commercial, or multi-family.

ADOPTED RATE STRUCTURE *TG = Thousand Gallons*

RESIDENTIAL	**Charge Category**	**Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**
	Base Charge (Water)	$17.51 / Quarterly
	Base Charge (Sewer)	$13.98 / Quarterly
	Water Use (Less than 9,000 Gallons)	$4.73 / TG
	Water Use (9,000 Gallons and above)	$7.57 / TG
	Sewer Use (*capped at winter consumption level*)	$10.48 / TG
MULTI-FAMILY	**Charge Category**	**Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**
	Base Charge (Water)	$12.50 / Month
	Base Charge (Sewer)	$9.93 / Month
	Water Use	$5.62 / TG
	Sewer Use	$10.48 / TG
COMMERCIAL	**Charge Category**	**Effective July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**
	Base Charge (Water)	$12.50 / Month
	Base Charge (Sewer)	$9.93 / Month
	Water Use	$6.09 / TG
	Sewer Use	$10.48 / TG

FEES – ALL CUSTOMERS	**Charge Category**	
	New Account Fee	$40
	Service Disconnection	Free
	Service Reconnection	$25
	Insufficient Funds Fee	$50

The charges for drainage fixture unit inspections shall be one hundred and seventy-five dollars ($175.00) for one (1) to twenty-four (24) fixtures, and two hundred seventy-five dollars ($275.00) for twenty-five (25) -plus fixtures.

The charge for fire flow tests shall be three hundred dollars ($300.00)

Sub-Metering.

Arlington County will not install, maintain, or read sub-meters or consecutive meters for any purpose. Building owners who wish to meter tenants separately will be responsible for installation, maintenance, and billing for such arrangements.

§ 26-8. Water service to buildings to be demolished.

The issuance of a demolition permit by the county manager or a demolition order entered by a court shall constitute an implied request by and permission from the owner of the building for discontinuance of the water service connection.

§ 26-9. Penalty.

Any person who violates any provision of this article or any rule or regulation pursuant thereto shall be subject to a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) nor more than one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) for each violation. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 26-10. Infrastructure availability fees.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to connect a structure to the public water distribution system or to the sanitary sewer system without payment of an infrastructure availability fee.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to install plumbing fixtures in a structure previously connected to the public water distribution system or to the sanitary sewer system which results in an increase in the total drainage fixture units in that structure without payment of an infrastructure availability fee.

(c) Infrastructure availability fees shall be paid in full prior to issuance of a building permit, or a plumbing permit if no building permit is required or according to regulations pursuant to section 26-3. The infrastructure availability fee shall be in accordance with the rate schedule in force at the time of issuance of the permit.

(d) The infrastructure availability fee rate shall be $305.00 per drainage fixture unit (dfu). For structures that are provided for water service only or sewer service only, the infrastructure availability fee shall be as follows:

Water Service only - $120.00 per dfu
Sewer Service only - $185.00 per dfu

(e) The County Manager shall develop such rules and regulations as are necessary to govern the administration of the infrastructure availability fee in accordance with section 26-3(b) of this chapter.

§ 26-12. SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

Service Connection Size (inches)	Meter Size (inches)	County Connection Charge	Developed Installed Connection Charge as of 07-01-2025*
1”	3/4"	$5,295.00	$410.00
1 1/2"	1 1/2"	$6,915.00	$1,020.00
2”	2”	$8,300.00	$1,360.00
3”	3”	At Cost – Quote upon request	$2,970.00
4”	4”	At Cost – Quote upon request	$3,950.00
6”	6”	At Cost – Quote upon request	$5,560.00
8”	8”	At Cost – Quote upon request	$10,240.00

*Developer Installed Connection charges apply in cases where the developer is required to install new water main and services.

Water Service Discontinuation Charge

The charge to discontinue a public water service shall be $500.00.

Meter Box Relocation Charge

The charge to relocate a meter box (for 2 inches and smaller) five feet or less shall be $1,000.00. For relocation greater than five feet, a new water service charge and discontinue charge for the existing service shall be required.

These charges became effective July 1, 2025

APPENDIX A - RULES FOR SETTING THE CHARGE

1. The Water and Sewer infrastructure availability fee shall be derived from the total equivalent drainage fixture units (dfu's) in any structure. The dfu value shall be assigned to plumbing fixtures according to the current, and future applicable versions of the Plumbing Code adopted by the State of Virginia. The total number of dfu's for the structure less any applicable credits shall be multiplied by the current rate per dfu to determine the total fee.

2. The rate per dfu shall be revised by the Department of Environmental Services and shall include the total system replacement cost, work in progress, and the estimated six year cost for expansion of the water and sewer system contained in the County's Capital Improvement Program, all expressed in current dollars. A credit shall be provided in the calculation of the rate for that portion of debt service paid through the Water-Sewer Service Charge.

3. Infrastructure availability fees shall be paid in full prior to issuance of a building permit, or a plumbing permit if no building permit is required, and the infrastructure availability fee shall be in accordance with the rate schedule in force at the time of issuance of the permit based on the plans submitted to the Inspection Services Division, CPHD. The charge may be adjusted to reflect "as-built" conditions prior to issuance of a "Certificate of Occupancy."

4. The County Manager or his designee shall determine the infrastructure availability fee for all structures. When a plumbing fixture does not fall under any of the listed types, the County Manager or his representative shall select the most similar type listed or may designate a special infrastructure availability fee for the fixture based on water consumption and/or waste disposal requirements.

5. A credit shall be allowed for the total equivalent dfu's in any existing structure to be demolished or rehabilitated by the applicant. Proof of the total existing dfu's must be provided through presentation of satisfactory documentation, such as a building plan signed by a registered professional engineer, architect, or a building inspection made by the County.

6. Credit for the total equivalent dfu's in a building to be demolished or rehabilitated will be applied only against new construction or rehabilitation work on the same site. No payment in lieu of credit will be made for demolition of buildings or removal of plumbing fixtures. All credit shall be applied against the infrastructure availability fee and shall not exceed the fee. For multi-building and phased construction projects, credit for dfu's in structures to be demolished shall be prorated for the entire project or in a manner acceptable to the County.

7. Credit for the total equivalent DFUs in any pre-existing structure that has been demolished before the applicant applies for a building permit on a new site shall only be allowed if the building was demolished within the last 10 years and if the applicant can provide adequate documentation of the number of DFUs in that structure. Such documentation shall consist of a building plan for the demolished structure showing total equivalent DFUs, and signed by a registered professional engineer or architect. If such a plan is not

available for applications submitted after January 1, 1993, alternate forms of documentation may be approved by the County Manager or his designee, including appraisals prepared by certified appraisers which contain sufficient information to enable the County to determine equivalent DFUs or other documentation prepared by an independent third party determined to be qualified to provide such information by the County Manager or his designee. If documentation acceptable to the County Manager does not exist, the applicant may request credit at the following rates provided the type of structure can be adequately documented as determined by the County:

CREDIT FOR DEMOLISHED STRUCTURES

Single Family Dwellings	
(Detached, Semi Detached, Townhouse)	11 DFU/unit
Apartments	9 DFU/unit
Hotels or Motels	7 DFU/rental unit
Office or Commercial	3 DFU/1000 sq. Ft.

(No Credit Allowed for Basements or Attics)

No credit will be given for garages, sheds, temporary buildings, or other similar structures which normally do not have plumbing.

8. The payment of infrastructure availability fees is required for all additional drainage fixture units in an existing structure, regardless of the original construction date of the structure. No infrastructure availability fee will be charged for rehabilitation of a structure provided there is no net increase in drainage fixture units.

9. Funds collected through the infrastructure availability fee shall be accumulated in a separate category within the Utilities Fund. This fund category shall be subdivided into water supply system and sewer system/water pollution control plant subcategories. The percent of total revenues going to each subcategory shall be established annually. Funds in each subcategory shall be spent on capital projects for the water supply system or sewer system/water pollution control, respectively.

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Arlington County, Virginia
Department of Environmental Services
Water/Sewer Engineering

APPLICATION FOR WATER & SEWER SERVICE

Permit Number: **Permit Issuance Date:**

Reviewed By:

WORK ADDRESS:	
OWNER NAME:	**APPLICANT NAME:**
ADDRESS:	**ADDRESS:**
EMAIL:	**EMAIL:**
PHONE:	**PHONE:**

WATER SERVICE CONNECTION CHARGES

Remove Existing Water Service: ☐

Type of New Service	Quantity	Account Number Assigned	Fee

WATER SERVICE CONNECTION FEE

Water & Sewer Account	☐	Mixed Service Providers	☐
Sewer Account	☐	Irrigation System	☐
Water Account	☐	Septic System	☐

DRAINAGE FIXTURE UNIT (DFU) INVENTORY

TABLE 709.1 OF 2006 SUPPLEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE

TYPE OF FIXTURE OR GROUP OF FIXTURES	DFU VALUE	MINIMUM SIZE TRAP (INCHES)	# OF FIXTURES	CREDITS	DFU CREDITS	# OF DFU'S
Bathroom group consisting of water closet, lavatory, bidet and bathtub or shower (greater than 1.6 gpf)[f]	6	–				
Bathroom group as defined in Section 202 (1.6 gpf water closet)[f]	5	–				
Bathtub[b] (with or without overhead shower or whirlpool attachments)	2	1 1/2				
Bidet	1	1 1/4				
Combination sink and tray	2	1 1/2				
Dental unit or cuspidor	1	1 1/4				
Dental lavatory	1	1 1/4				
Drinking fountain	1/2	1 1/4				
Dishwashing machine[c], domestic	2	1 1/2				
Emergency floor drain	0	2				
Floor drains	2	2				
Kitchen sink, domestic	2	1 1/2				
Kitchen sink, domestic with food waste grinder and/or dishwasher	2	1 1/2				
Lavatory	1	1 1/4				
Laundry tray (1 or 2 compartments)	2	1 1/2				
Shower compartment, domestic	2	2				
Sink	2	1 1/2				
Service Sink	2	1 1/2				
Urinal	4	footnote d				
Urinal, 1 gallon per flush or less	2[e]	footnote d				
Urinal, nonwater supplied	1/2	footnote d				
Washing machines, commercial[a, g]	3	2				
Washing machine, residential[g]	2	2				
Wash sink (circular or multiple) each set of faucets	2	1 1/2				
Water closet, flushometer tank, public or private	4[e]	footnote d				
Water closet, private (1.6 gpf)	3[e]	footnote d				
Water closet, private installation (greater than 1.6 gpf)	4[e]	footnote d				
Water closet, public (1.6 gpf)	4[e]	footnote d				
Water closet, public (greater than 1.6 gpf)	6[e]	footnote d				
Table 712.2-Unlisted Fixture Drain or Trap Size						
1.25" or Less	1					
1.50"	2					
2.00"	3					
2.50"	4					
3.00"	5					
4.00"	6					
Other (3)						

TOTAL DFU'S ☐

CERTIFIED CORRECT _____ VA P.E. NO. _____

CHECKED BY COUNTY _____ DATE _____

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 gallon = 3.785 L

a. For traps larger than 3 inches, use Table 709.2
b. A showerhead over a bathtub or whirlpool bathtub attachment does not increase the drainage fixture unit value.
c. See Sections 709.2 through 709.4 for methods of computing unit value of fixtures not listed in this table of for rating of devices with intermittent flows.
d. Trap size shall be consistent with the fixture outlet
e. For the purpose of computing loads on building drains and sewer, water closets and urinals shall not be rated at a lower drainage fixture unit unless the lower values are confirmed by testing
f. For fixtures added to a dwelling unit bathroom group, add the DFU value of those additional fixtures to the bathroom group fixture count.
g. See Section 406.3 for sizing requirements for fixture drain, branch drain, and drainage stack for an automatic clothes washer standpipe.

Arlington County, Virginia
Department of Environmental Services
Water/Sewer Engineering

APPLICATION FOR DRAINAGE FIXTURE UNIT CREDIT FOR DEMOLISHED BUILDING ON SITE

1. Demolished Building Address _____

2. Proposed Building Type or Use _____

3. Owner's Name and Address _____

_____

Phone No. _____

4. Applicant's Name and Address _____

_____

Phone No. _____

5. Demolished Building Type or Use:

_____ Single Family Dwelling or Duplex
_____ Apartment Building: No. of Units _____
_____ Office Building: Floor Area _____ Sq. Ft.
_____ Commercial Building: Floor Area _____ Sq. Ft.
_____ Hotel or Motel: No. of Units _____
_____ Other _____

6. Demolition Permit No. _____ Date _____

7. Drainage Fixture Unit Credit for Demolished Building

_____ dfu per Certified DFU Inventory
or
_____ dfu per Standard DFU Credits (See Bottom of Form)

8. Verified by County _____ Date _____

STANDARD DFU CREDITS

Single Family Dwelling - 11dfu/unit
Apartments - 9 dfu/unit
Hotel or Motel - 7 dfu/unit
Office or Commercial - 3 dfu/1000 Sq.Ft.

DRAINAGE FIXTURE UNIT (DFU) INVENTORY
TABLE 709.1 OF 2006 SUPPLEMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE

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Bathroom group as defined in Section 202 (1.6 gpf water closet)[f]	5	–				
Bathtub[b] (with or without overhead shower or whirlpool attachments)	2	1 1/2				
Bidet	1	1 1/4				
Combination sink and tray	2	1 1/2				
Dental unit or cuspidor	1	1 1/4				
Dental lavatory	1	1 1/4				
Drinking fountain	1/2	1 1/4				
Dishwashing machine[c], domestic	2	1 1/2				
Emergency floor drain	0	2				
Floor drains	2	2				
Kitchen sink, domestic	2	1 1/2				
Kitchen sink, domestic with food waste grinder and/or dishwasher	2	1 1/2				
Lavatory	1	1 1/4				
Laundry tray (1 or 2 compartments)	2	1 1/2				
Shower compartment, domestic	2	2				
Sink	2	1 1/2				
Service Sink	2	1 1/2				
Urinal	4	footnote d				
Urinal, 1 gallon per flush or less	2[e]	footnote d				
Urinal, nonwater supplied	1/2	footnote d				
Washing machines, commercial[a, g]	3	2				
Washing machine, residential [g]	2	2				
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Water closet, private (1.6 gpf)	3[e]	footnote d				
Water closet, private installation (flushing greater than 1.6 gpf)	4[e]	footnote d				
Water closet, public (1.6 gpf)	4[e]	footnote d				
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1.50"	2					
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2.50"	4					
3.00"	5					
4.00"	6					
Other (3)						
TOTAL DFU'S						

CERTIFIED CORRECT _____ VA P.E. NO. _____

CHECKED BY COUNTY _____ DATE _____

For SI: 1 inch = 25.4 mm, 1 gallon = 3.785 L

a. For traps larger than 3 inches, use Table 709.2
b. A showerhead over a bathtub or whirlpool bathtub attachment does not increase the drainage fixture unit value.
c. See Sections 709.2 through 709.4 for methods of computing unit value of fixtures not listed in this table of for rating of devices with intermittent flows.
d. Trap size shall be consistent with the fixture outlet
e. For the purpose of computing loads on building drains and sewer, water closets and urinals shall not be rated at a lower drainage fixture unit unless the lower values are confirmed by testing
f. For fixtures added to a dwelling unit bathroom group, add the DFU value of those additional fixtures to the bathroom group fixture count.
g. See Section 406.3 for sizing requirements for fixture drain, branch drain, and drainage stack for an automatic clothes washer standpipe.