

Lac La Biche County

Water Servicing Guidelines

1. General

- a. Appropriate permits and permission to connect to municipal services must be obtained prior to commencing any work. All applicable fees must be paid in full.
- b. A Water and Sewer (Wastewater) Service Completion Notification must be completed and emailed before the water and sewer service will be turned on.**
- c. Each lot must have a separate water and sewer service as per the Plumbing Code Regulation.
- d. All trenching and backfilling should be completed in strict conformance under the direction of Lac La Biche County and in compliance with Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) regulations.
- e. It is the lot owner's responsibility to ensure that all underground utilities have been located prior to commencement of work. Locates can be obtained through Utility Safety Partners (Alberta One Call) at 1-800-242-3447 or via the internet at <https://utilitysafety.ca/wheres-the-line/submit-a-locate-request/>.
- f. It is the lot owner's responsibility to ensure that all piping system connections are thoroughly flushed prior to connecting to any mechanical device which may be damaged by debris accumulated during construction.
- g. Piping should be buried below the frost depth (9 feet or 2.75 metres). Where minimum cover cannot be attained, provisions shall be made for frost protection.
- h. Water service piping should be Plumbing Code approved. Minimum pipe diameter should be 20 mm or $\frac{3}{4}$ inch.
- i. All underground connections should be Plumbing Code approved.
- j. Every connection to municipal services shall be inspected and flushed by municipal staff only.
- k. Settlement of excavations shall be repaired by the property owner within 1 year of connection.
- l. All piping and equipment (except the water meter) from the municipal connection to the building are the responsibility of the property owner.

2. Trickle Water System

- a. Trickle water mains are restricted to 2 gallons per minute (gpm). A cistern will be required for each property. This cistern will be set back from the roadway and at an elevation that maintains positive pressure.
- b. Meter chambers, with required flow restrictors and backflow preventers may be supplied, at the owner's cost, from the municipality. If not supplied by the municipality, installation needs to be done so that the meter is accessible for maintenance.

- c. Meter chambers shall be installed, when required, a minimum 5 feet (1.5 meters) inside the property line and a minimum of 6 ½ feet (2 meters) from the shoulder of a driveway.
- d. Meter chambers shall be set level on a firm base, such as a concrete sidewalk pad, and backfilled with clean material.
- e. Water must be metered prior to entering the cistern. An isolation valve, water meter, backflow preventor and flow restrictor (in that order) prior to cistern. The municipality will provide the backflow preventor and flow restrictors for new install. Replacements can be sourced through Utility Services.
- f. Only Plumbing Code approved fittings will be permitted to connect service lines to the meter chamber. This line will then extend to the cistern.
- g. If a meter chamber is not required, the service line shall run directly from the municipal connection into the building being served. This service line shall have a valve, backflow preventer and flow restrictor in the close vicinity to the water meter. No other connections are permitted prior to the meter. This line will then extend to the cistern.
- h. Each cistern will require a float switch, installed as per Plumbing Code regulation, to control the water level in the cistern.
- i. All penetrations into a cistern should be made via factory-installed hubs or fittings, or through a cored opening that has been adequately sealed.
- j. All service lines must be flushed by municipal staff prior to being utilized. **No services may be turned on by anyone, other than by municipal staff.**
- k. The municipality shall provide the remote water meter wiring. The owner shall run the wiring to the exterior of the wall facing the service. It will then be connected to the meter and the transmitter by municipal staff.

3. Full Pressure Water System

- a. Properties connecting to the municipal full pressure system must have a 20 mm or ¾ inch shut-off valve located inside the building where the piping exits the ground, prior to the installation of the water meter. The municipality will supply the water meter.
- b. The municipality will supply the meter wire. The owner will run the wire to the exterior of the building on the side where the water service enters the building, or where the gas meter is installed. Municipal staff will make the wiring connections to the meter and the transmitter.
- c. Municipal staff must flush all lines prior to use.

The information provided is intended to assist in achieving compliance with the Plumbing Code. It does not cover all aspects of all installations. A current copy of the Plumbing Code should be consulted PRIOR to any work being performed.

Property owners are reminded that they are responsible for ALL work performed on their sites. Ensure you get references for any contractors performing work on your property.

It is the owner's responsibility to maintain all water and sewer equipment, as well as the piping from their installation to the property connections. This includes fixing ground settlement, line blockage and ensuring frost protection. The municipality will not be held liable for any damages incurred on private property.

Trench settlement in ditches and county property including roads that is a result of the installation is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Municipal staff will perform an inspection 1 year later to ensure clean-up is complete.

Transmitter Wire for Water Meter Installation

Water meters installed inside a building require a wire connection to the transmitter installed on the exterior of the building. This is how the municipality remotely reads water consumption for billing purposes. **It is the responsibility of the owner to install this wire.**

The remote meter wire needs to run to the exterior of the wall facing the direction of the water service. This wire shall be supplied by the municipality, installed by the owner, and connected to the water meter and transmitter by municipal utility staff. If the property is also serviced with municipal natural gas, then the water meter wire must run to the location of the existing transmitter being utilized for the gas meter.

Municipal staff cannot install this wire, as installation may require drilling holes in walls or floor joists, and the municipality is not liable for damage to existing structures or electrical or water lines.

Municipal staff will not turn on any water service until the transmitter wire is installed.

If you are in need of wire, please contact Utilities Services at 780-623-6730 or email utilitiesadmin@laclabichecounty.com.