



“WHO OWNS WHAT?”

The following information provides an outline of ownership and responsibility of “who owns what” within the water system as well as at water service locations. Please note, this is an overview, not every item is included in this list.

MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT - MVD owns and is responsible for the water system’s infrastructure. This includes the equipment and tools required for Production, Treatment, & Storage of water such as Wells & Pumps, Booster Pumps, Water Storage Tanks, Water Sampling Stations, Filtration Devices, Well/Pump Houses, Booster Stations, and Water Treatment Facilities as well as the components of the Water Distribution System including the following:



Water Main(s): The network of water pipes located underground in the roadway which provide water throughout Merrimack.



Gate Valve: Gate Valves play an integral role in a water distribution system; they are utilized to manage both the volume and direction of water flow, as well as to regulate pressure and supply.



Valve Box: Vertical pipe that is connected to and provides access to the Gate Valve.



Valve Box Cover: Round metal plate that covers and provides protection of the Valve Box & the Gate Valve. Valve Box Covers are typically located in the roadway and are flush with the ground.

Blow-Off (not pictured): This is a device installed on the Water Main which is used for flushing water within the distribution system.

Fire Hydrants (not pictured): MVD owns and maintains fire hydrants located on public property and that are connected to MVD’s Water Mains. Hydrants are utilized by the Merrimack Fire Department for fire protection as well as by MVD for flushing water within the distribution system.



Service Tap: The point at which MVD's Water Main is connected to a Service Connection.



Service Connection: The portion of pipe that runs from the Water Main to the Curb Stop (refer to the orange rectangle in photo).



Curb Stop: Often referred to as the "outside shut-off or shut-off valve" the Curb Stop is the valve that connects the location's Water Service Line to the Service Connection. This valve allows the service location's water to be turned on and off as needed. The Curb Stop is located underground below frost level (approximately four to five feet) and is normally located at or near the service location's property line.

Curb Box (not pictured): Vertical pipe that is connected to & provides access to the Curb Stop (similar to Valve Box – refer to photo of Valve Box).



Curb Box Cover: Covers and provides protection of the Curb Box and the Curb Stop. The Curb Box Cover is a round metal plate with a nut in the center that is typically painted blue. The Curb Box Cover should be at grade-level/flush with the ground. Although the Curb Box Cover is owned by MVD, we kindly request that property owners help ensure it remains accessible. This will provide easier access in the event of an emergency that requires the service to be turned off, for example, if there is a plumbing issue and water isn't able to be turned off inside.

Curb Box Riser (not pictured): Vertical pipe installed in order to extend the Curb Box and ensure accessibility. A Curb Box riser is typically used when the Curb Box is not at grade/flush with the ground.

Water Meter: Water Meters are comprised of multiple parts which include the following items.



Base/Bottom: Brass device installed into the Water Meter Horn. The Base/Bottom contains the water flow measuring device. The size of the Base/Bottom determines the water flow rate for the location.



Top/Register: Device attached to the Base/Bottom which records water usage data. The Top/Register is either round with an odometer-like dial or a rectangle with a digital display.



Transmitter: Device connected by wires to the Top/Register. The Transmitter sends the reading from the Top/Register via radio frequency remotely to MVD's mobile data collector – computer software that is programmed with the specific data exclusive to each individual Water Meter & Transmitter at every service location.

PROPERTY OWNER(S) - Property owner(s) of the water service location own and are responsible for everything (other than the water meter & transmitter) located past the curb stop. This includes the water service line that runs from the curb stop into the building that connects to the meter horn/retro setter, the water meter horn/retro setter, and all plumbing. The information below serves as a representation – the items may vary depending on the specific service and location.



Water Service Line: The portion of pipe located underground that provides connection to water service. The Water Service Line is connected from Curb Stop to inside the premises.



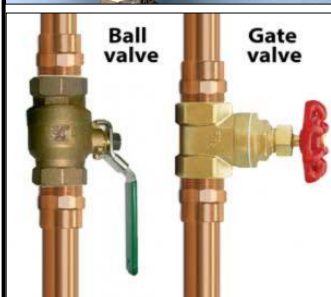
Water Meter Horn: Attached to the portion of Water Service Line that enters the building. The Water Meter is installed into the Water Meter Horn. The Inside Shut-Off and a Check-Valve are integrated with the Water Meter Horn.






Retro Setter: Older service locations may have a Retro Setter instead of a Water Meter Horn. Retro Setters do not have an integrated Check-Valve or an Inside Shut-Off.



Inside Shut-Off: The valve located inside the building where the Water Service Line enters the premises, typically before the Water Meter. This valve allows the service location's water to be shut-off by the property owner and/or plumber as needed.



Newer service locations typically have a Water Meter Horn that has an integrated Inside Shut-Off Valve. Older service locations and/or locations with older plumbing may have a Water Shut-Off Valve located in line with the plumbing, or they may not have any type of Inside Shut-Off Valve. Newer plumbing usually has “ball valves” (handle that moves up/down to turn water on/off) while older plumbing has compression “gate valves” (a round handle that spins to turn water on/off).

	<p>Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV): This device regulates the pressure of water entering the premises and is usually located on the plumbing near the hot water heater. The PRV is designed to protect the plumbing by regulating the water pressure that comes into the service location. Any location determined to have water pressure over 80 psi is required to install and maintain a PRV (refer to “International Plumbing Code 604.8 Water Pressure-Reducing Valve or Regulator”). Any location having direct pressure hot water tanks or appliances must place proper automatic vacuum relief valves in the pipe system to prevent any damage to such tanks or appliances in the event of water shut-off (refer to “International Plumbing Code 606.5.9”). Water service provided to such direct pressure installations are the property owner’s own risk and in no case will MVD be liable for any damage occasioned thereby. It is the responsibility of the property owner to verify the water pressure in the home to determine if the pressure is too high or too low to operate their internal plumbing systems.</p>	
<p>Testable Backflow Preventer (not pictured): This device prevents potential backflow of contaminants from the service location into the water system in the event of a decrease or increase in water pressure. Testing requirements and schedules are based on the type of potential hazard determined by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services – Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau (NHDES DWGB) as part of the Cross-Contamination Control Program. <i>Residential locations are typically not required to have a Testable Backflow Preventer.</i></p>		
	<p>Check-Valve: Device that prevents backflow of water from the service location’s plumbing. Newer style Water Meter Horns are equipped with built-in Check-Valves are generally used for residential applications in place of a Testable Backflow Preventer.</p>	
	<p>Expansion Tank: Device attached to the plumbing intended to provide damage protection for closed heating systems due to increased water volume during water heating. Water is non-compressible; when water is heated in a closed system, it expands creating additional water volume – pressure. If the pressure builds and does not have anywhere to go it can cause damage to the water heater as well as the plumbing system.</p>	
		<p>Meter Pit: Vault/chamber with a removable top that is located in the ground. Meter Pits are used to enclose and protect a Water Meter that is not installed inside a home/business. <i>NOTE - Most residential and commercial service locations <u>DO NOT</u> have Meter Pits. Meter Pits are used only at specific locations.</i></p>

The information provided in this document is for informational purposes only; the items may vary based on the specific service and location.

Questions? Contact MVD

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