



HOW TO CONNECT TO THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

Residents in your neighborhood will have the choice to connect to the new public water system in the area. There is no requirement to connect, but recent studies have shown that private wells may have high levels of nitrate contamination from poorly functioning and aging septic systems. Contaminants affect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. To connect to the new system, you will need to complete the following:

Establish a Water Account

Before connecting to the water system, homeowners must establish an account with the Water Authority. You can visit our website at <https://www.abcwua.org/customer-service-new-service-applications/> or call our Customer Service Department at 505-842-WATR (9287), option 3. There are fees associated with new service connections: a Utility Expansion Charge (UEC) and a meter-set charge. Those costs can be found on the Water Authority website at <https://www.abcwua.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/UEC-Charges-as-of-7.1.22-rev-1.pdf>

Rather than paying the full UEC fees at the time you apply for service, the Water Authority offers a loan program to applicants. It includes a down payment followed by monthly payments for a predetermined amount of time. For more information on the Utility Loan Program, please visit <https://www.abcwua.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WRC-Charges-as-of-7.1.22-rev-1.pdf>

Connect your Property to the Utility

Work to install the water line between the meter and the house (called the “yard line”) may be done by a licensed plumber or you may do it yourself. If any work needs to be done within the Bernalillo County right-of-way, a permit from the Bernalillo County Public Works Division will be required. Remember, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that permits and inspections are completed according to code.

Do-It-Yourself Homeowner Permit Steps:

1. Take and pass the Homeowner's Plumbing Test with Bernalillo County Planning and Development Services.
2. Apply for a plumbing permit with Bernalillo County Planning and Development Services.
3. Perform the “yard line” installation and call for the appropriate inspections from Bernalillo County Planning and Development Services.

Plumber Installation:

If you choose to hire a plumber to install your "yard line," they must obtain a plumbing permit from Bernalillo County's Planning and Development Services. They should provide you with a copy of the permit.

The plumber will need to call for the plumbing inspections after the work is complete. Two or more inspections may be required to determine if that installation was done correctly, and to ensure that the well line has been disconnected to the house. No connection between the well and the public water system is allowed.

If not already done, a thermal expansion device must be installed within your piping system per the Uniform Plumbing Code.

The plumber should provide you with a copy of all approval tags. If you have questions regarding what the plumber is required to perform, contact Bernalillo County's Planning and Development Services.

Financial Assistance

The Bernalillo County Public Works Division can provide financial assistance through the PIPE program (Partners in Improvement and Protection of the Environment). The program is available to all homeowners who reside within the County and meet the financial need and property value criteria. See attached flier for more information about the PIPE program.

Important Phone Numbers:

Water Authority New Customers: 505-842-WATR (9287), Option 3

Bernalillo County Planning and Development Services: 505-314-0350

Bernalillo County Natural Resources Services (PIPE Program): 505-848-1524



www.abcwua.org

505-842-WATR (9287)
