Cara Spencer
Mayor

City of St. Louis
Water Division
Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.

Department of Public Utilities
Office of the Water Commissioner

1640 S. Kingshighway Blvd.
St. Louis MO 63110
(314) 633-9000

Niraj S. Patel, P.E.
Director of Public Utilities

Ordinance 72168 Notice

Requirements

The City of St. Louis Ordinance 72168 which implements new water meter requirements for new water service connections and qualifying rehabilitation and service line replacement projects was made effective on November 1st, 2026.

The goal of this ordinance was to modernize water infrastructure, address aging infrastructure, improve billing accuracy, and ensure more accurate measurement of water consumption.

Contractors and plumbers must account for the required meter installation when estimating, permitting, and completing applicable projects.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which projects require a meter?

Effective November 1, 2026, meter installation is required for any NEW connection to the water system. Examples include:

- **NEW Construction:** All new construction, including residential properties.
- **NEW Water Taps:** Existing buildings receiving a new tap must be converted to a metered account if not already metered.
- **Major Rehabilitation Projects:** Projects where the Plumbing Division requires replacement of a water service line.
- **Service Line Repairs:** Service line repair or replacement projects that require a new tap, including those funded through the City's Service Line Replacement program.

Existing flat-rate customers are NOT required to install a meter solely because of this ordinance. Existing properties are affected when work meets one of the applicable project criteria.

What must be installed?

For applicable projects, contractors must include the following:

- Water meter pit.

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- Meter setter.
- Required piping and stub-out from the meter box to connect to the existing stop & waste or replacement service line, as applicable.
- All associated work necessary to complete the connection in accordance with Water Division specifications.

Details, plans, and specifications can be found in the City of St. Louis Connection regulations.

What are the expectations for contractors?

- **Verify project scope:** Determine whether the work constitutes a new service connection, partial replacement, or full-service line replacement.
- **Coordinate permitting:** When replacing only the T-head-to-stop & waste section, confirm meter requirements with the Plumbing Division before proceeding.
- **Include required work in estimates:** Account for the meter pit, setter, piping, and associated installation work when preparing project bids and customer contracts.

Follow City specifications: All meter installations must meet current Water Division technical standards and applicable connection regulations.

Who owns the meter?

- The St. Louis Water Division installs, owns, and maintains water meters following installation.
- Costs for the meter pit, setter, piping, and associated appurtenances are the responsibility of the resident, developer, or property owner.
- Water service cannot be initiated or continued through a qualifying new connection or major rehabilitation project until an approved meter is installed.
- Applicable building permits and certificates of occupancy are subject to compliance with the ordinance.

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What about lead line replacements?

If a lead service line is encountered during replacement or repair work, standard installation procedures must incorporate full lead service line replacement protocols. Partial lead service line replacements are strictly regulated and generally prohibited unless specific emergency conditions and temporary safety measures are approved by the Water Division.

Contact Information

City of St. Louis - Water Division

4600 McRee Ave.
St. Louis MO 63110
(314) 633-9029
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

City of St. Louis - Plumbing Division

1200 Market St.,
Room 425,
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(314) 622-4355
Monday – Friday
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