

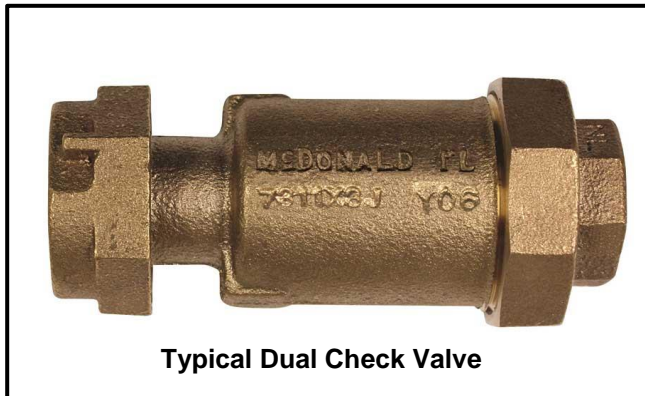
Fairmont Meter Replacement Project

Backflow Prevention and Expansion Tank Information

The City of Joliet will be hiring a contractor to replace all water meters in the Fairmont Water System. As part of this project, the contractor will also install a dual check valve and an expansion tank. The customer will not incur any cost directly related to this work.

Backflow Prevention

Per State of Illinois and City of Joliet regulations, the City is responsible for protection of the public water supply. In the event of pressure loss in the City water main due to a pipe leak or other repair, certain plumbing conditions may lead to **backflow** of water from a house or business private plumbing system back into the public water main. In some cases, this can cause suction of contaminated water from a utility sink, mop sink, or from an exterior hose in a puddle back into the public water main. The City will install a backflow prevention device called a **dual check valve** near the water meter to help prevent this backflow situation.



Although the City backflow preventer can also increase the level of protection for the private plumbing system, its main objective is to protect the public main. Note that Illinois plumbing code requires additional backflow devices at various fixtures throughout a building. Examples include laundry sinks, mop sinks, and hose bibs. Each customer will remain responsible for each of these private backflow devices.

Expansion Tank

When a backflow device is installed near the meter, a **closed system** is created. A hot water heater can then increase the pressure throughout the building's water lines. To prevent excessive high pressures, the City's contractor will install an **expansion tank**. This will normally be installed near the hot water heater on the cold-water supply line.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What Is This Project About? The City of Joliet will be hiring a contractor to replace all water meters in the Fairmont Water System. Following is a summary of work to be performed.

- Replacement of the old meter.
- Mounting of an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) SmartPoint radio on the outside of each house.
- Running wire between the meter and the radio. A hole through the wall will be needed.
- Installation of grounding wire and clamps near the meter (if not already present).
- Installation of a double-check valve adjacent to the meter.
- Installation of an expansion tank near the hot water heater (if not already present).

Why Is This Needed? The City of Joliet utilizes an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) radio system to read all meters without the need to access properties or drive around the City. To achieve compatibility with the City's AMR system, all existing meters must be replaced with the City's Standard meters manufactured by Sensus.

When will the meter replacement occur? The meter replacement project is tentatively scheduled to begin in early 2020. The majority of homes should be complete by summer of 2020. If there is not a working shutoff valve inside the home, an exterior shutoff will be required. In some cases, this can lead to delays due to needed repairs on the exterior service valve (often referred to as a "b-box").

What are the benefits of a new meter and AMR? Besides the fact that the old meter does not work with the City of Joliet system, the other benefits include:

- No access to property needed for monthly meter reads.
- Availability of detailed hourly read data to assist in finding leaks, etc.
- Meter with no moving parts can reduce pressure loss.

What Process Should I Expect? The City of Joliet's contractor will initially contact every customer by letter, asking the customer to contact the contractor to set up a date and time for a meter appointment. If no response is received to the initial letter, the contractor may follow up with additional letters, phone calls, e-mails, or in-person visits to schedule the meter appointment.

All contractor employees will be required to pass a background check prior to working inside private residences. The entire appointment should normally take two (2) hours or less. The water will be turned off during much of this time period. The contractor will schedule evening or weekend appointments if needed to accommodate your schedule.

What Do I Need to Do to Prepare for the Meter Replacement Project? The following steps will minimize the time for the contractor to complete the work and restore your water service.

- Make sure that your interior shutoff valves are in good working order.
- Remove any items stored near the water meter to ensure there is a clear work area for the contractor to access the meter.

Cost of Meter Replacement? The customer will not be charged for the meter replacement and associated work. If an interior shutoff valve is not in working order, the contractor can perform the labor to replace the valve. In such a case, the customer would be responsible to directly pay the contractor for the valve parts (approximately \$25).

How Do I Obtain Additional Information? Call the Joliet Public Utilities Department at 815-724-4220 or e-mail jhall@joliet.gov. For information about your plumbing system, contact a licensed plumber and/or the Will County Land Use / Building Division at 815-727-8634.