



WATER METER/WATER USE POLICY

The following rules and regulations shall be considered a part of the contract with every consumer and/or property owner supplied with water from the Dade County Water & Sewer Authority, herein called the DCWSA, and every person or property owner taking water shall be considered as having expressed their consent to be thereby bound.

UNAUTHORIZED WATER USE

All water being used must flow through a DCWSA authorized water meter associated with an active water account that is in good standing. It is expressly illegal for anyone to tap, convert, steal, or utilize water through any fire line, fire hydrant, water main, or other equipment or lines of DCWSA without first having established a water account with an associated DCWSA authorized water meter.

WATER METERS

The initial cost of the meter, valve and copper setter is paid for by the property owner and is installed by the DCWSA. Once the meter and its components are installed it becomes the property of the DCWSA. It is the DCWSA's responsibility to maintain the meter, including replacement, and repair due to normal wear and tear. It is the responsibility of the account holder to maintain reasonable access to the meter and to protect the meter and meter components from any type of damage, including freezing, lawn mowers, vehicles, and vandalism. **A replacement cost for damaged meters and components will be charged to the account holder.**

REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF METERS

The DCWSA has the right to remove and/or replace any water meter it deems necessary, and is held harmless for damage real or alleged, to service lines or private property caused by such work if reasonable care is exercised.

If for any cause, the meter breaks or fails to register the amount of water used for any period, the quantity shall be determined by the DCWSA. The DCWSA shall make a reasonable reference to the quantity used in the corresponding period of previous years.

Property owners must keep their water pipes and fixtures in good repair at their expense.

The property owner/account holder shall be responsible for paying the water bill and any related water charges.

The property owner/account holder will be issued a water bill as long as the water service is connected to the premises. The owner must notify the DCWSA in of their intent to terminate the water service. Reconnection will be done at the owner's expense.

The DCWSA reserves the right to restrict, limit or shut off water in all cases when it becomes necessary to do so for repairs, non-payment of water bills, violations of the regulations or whenever they deem expedient.

No person shall operate any fire hydrant of the water works system without written permission from the DCWSA, except for the fire department.

All fire hydrant use will be metered or calculated for water usage.

METER VALVE ACCESS
ONLY DADE COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES ARE AUTHORIZED
TO ACCESS THE METER BOX AND OPERATE THE VALVE WITHIN TO TURN OFF OR
ON THE WATER.

The meter lid, boxes, meter, transmitter, and valve located within the meter box are the sole property of the utility company. **This policy is strictly enforced** and protects the aging infrastructure of the water distribution system. It also protects the customer from being responsible for the cost of any damages that may occur.

All customers of Dade County Water & Sewer Authority are encouraged to have a personal shut-off valve. If you do not have a shut-off, please call us to schedule a turn on/off during regular business hours. There is no charge for this service.

CLAIMS AGAINST DCWSA

Claims against the Dade County Water & Sewer Authority will not be accepted for damage to any pipe, fixture, appliance or appurtenance resulting from interrupted water service, variation in water pressure, temporary water service through hose connections, turning off or on of the water supply either wholly or in part for the purpose of extending, altering, or repairing any water main or water service line, or discontinuance of water service to the premises for violation of a rule or regulation of the DCWSA.

O.C.G.A. § 16-7-25

16-7-25. Damaging, injuring, or interfering with property of public utility companies, municipalities, or political subdivisions.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person intentionally and without authority to injure or destroy any meter, pipe, conduit, wire, line, post, lamp, or other apparatus belonging to a company, municipality, or political subdivision engaged in the manufacture or sale of electricity, gas, water, telephone, or other public services; intentionally and without authority to prevent a meter from properly registering the quantity of such service supplied; in any way to interfere with the proper action of such company, municipality, or political subdivision; intentionally to divert any services of such company, municipality, or political subdivision; or otherwise intentionally and without authority to use or cause to be used, without the consent of the company, municipality, or political subdivision, any service manufactured, sold, or distributed by the company, municipality, or political subdivision.

(b) Where there is no evidence to the contrary, the person performing any of the illegal acts set forth in subsection (a) of this Code section and the person who with knowledge of such violation receives the benefit of such service without proper charge as a result of the improper action shall be presumed to be responsible for the act of tampering or diversion.

(c) This Code section shall be cumulative to and shall not prohibit the enactment of any other general and local laws, rules, and regulations of state or local authorities or agencies and local ordinances prohibiting such activities which are more restrictive than this Code section.

(d) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.