

Procedure to Obtain Irrigation Meter

Below is a list of guidelines for anyone who wishes to have a second water meter installed for irrigation purposes. Keep in mind all nonresidential meters, including commercial water meters (2 inch or larger), businesses, restaurants, funeral homes, etc., will follow these guidelines on both their domestic and irrigation meters. Customers and contractors should follow these steps to comply with Brunswick County Public Utilities' Cross-Connection and Backflow Protection Policy.

1. Once a second meter box has been purchased by the customer and installed by Brunswick County Public Utilities, the customer should have an RPPA assembly (RPZ) installed. RPZs are to be installed by licensed plumbers or licensed irrigation contractors. (RPZ sizes will vary based on the size of the pipes, which will be determined by the plumber.)
2. RPZs are to be plumbed directly to the second meter box that is designated for the irrigation meter, with nothing branching off between the RPZ and the meter box. **DO NOT RUN A JUMPER OR HOOK THE RPZ TO THE HOUSE METER PLUMBING IN ANY WAY. THE RPZ IS NOT TO BE USED BEFORE IT HAS BEEN INSPECTED BY BRUNSWICK COUNTY. THE HOUSE METER PLUMBING AND IRRIGATION PLUMBING SHOULD BE SEPARATE.** The plumbing of the RPZ to the meter box should be complete before calling in for inspection.
3. Also, RPZs should be installed 12 inches above ground. That is, the bottom of the relief valve (discharge valve) should be 12 inches above ground for drainage purposes.
4. Once the RPZ installation is complete the customer can call Brunswick County Public Utilities and request an inspection. If the RPZ passes inspection, the irrigation meter will be installed and turned on. If the customer is not ready to use the RPZ yet, they are advised to have their own personal shut-off valve in front of the RPZ. This way they can turn the RPZ on and flush it when they are ready to start irrigating.

All Irrigation systems are to be set up on separate meters. Customers are no longer permitted to tie in irrigation lines to their domestic meter, According to Brunswick County's Design manual for Water and Sewer Systems. This is also stated in North Carolina Plumbing codes.

Customers and contractors should make sure to coordinate with each other when scheduling their landscaping projects. They should be sure to take the proper steps ahead of time to ensure their backflow assembly is ready when they request inspection. **It is not acceptable to start using an irrigation system before these steps are complete.** Following these steps will help Brunswick County Public Utilities be able to install irrigation meters in a timely manner and help keep everyone in compliance with the Cross-Connection and Backflow Policy.

A copy of the Brunswick County Cross-Connection and Backflow Policy can be made available upon request.