



MAKING THE CONNECTION

— A Homeowner's Introduction When Your Well or Septic System Fails—

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has provided water and sewer services throughout Prince George's and Montgomery Counties since 1918. As a public water agency, WSSC does not make a profit. The agency is entrusted by our community to provide safe and reliable water, and return clean water to the environment, all in a financially responsible manner.

When WSSC was originally created, a number of incorporated towns and private developments owned their own systems and opted out of WSSC. As new developments sprouted in the decades since, some opted not to be part of WSSC. Now, when homeowners who do not receive WSSC water or sewer service need to inquire about obtaining service, they generally have five basic questions:

1. Can I connect to water or sewer service?
2. How do I connect?
3. What are the costs?
4. Is financial assistance available?
5. If I have more questions, where can I find answers?

This information sheet provides some basic answers to those questions, but homeowners and developers should be aware that every project is different, and there are many, many variables that may trigger additional requirements. This document is merely an outline of the procedures for the least complicated hook-ups to existing or proposed homes in communities where WSSC already provides service.

1 Can I connect to water or sewer service?

Probably — *if* there are adequately sized water and/or sewer pipes that can provide a connection between your house and the WSSC system, and *if* your county has included your area in its 10-year Water and Sewer Plan. If those conditions do not exist, connection may still be possible but the process – and likely the cost to you – might be extensive and ultimately prohibitive. In fact, if your county does not intend to include your area for service, a connection may be impossible.

2 How do I connect?

Find out if WSSC has pipes to which you can connect

Your first step is to determine whether pipes are accessible and adequate. Call WSSC Permit Services at 301-206-4003. You will also need to call your county's Department of Permitting Services to determine whether the county has approved WSSC service for your area. (Montgomery County: 240-777-7716. Prince George's County: 301-883-5904.)

If WSSC pipes are available — apply for a "connection"

If WSSC's water and/or sewer pipes are available and adequate to serve your existing or proposed home, apply for a "connection" and provide the following documents, as applicable:

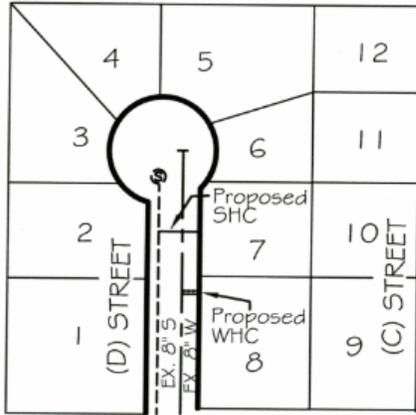
- WSSC Service Connection Application
- WSSC Location Form
- Private right of way document (if connections have to cross an adjacent property).
- Recorded Record Plat (if property was recently subdivided).
- Covenant (if the WSSC connection will serve multiple structures).
- Abandonment Permit (if there were existing connections on the property).

If the application is approved, WSSC averages 180+ days to construct the connections from the main to the property line. (The homeowner must hire a registered master plumber to install the pipe(s) from the property line to the house.)

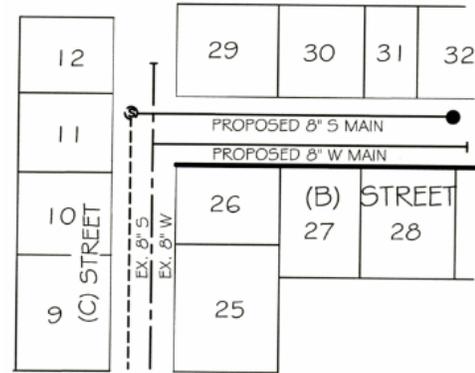
If WSSC existing lines are not available — an “extension” is required

If WSSC pipes do not abut the property, an extension will generally have to be built. The applicant can act as a developer by hiring an engineering firm to design the plans and a utility contractor to build the extensions, or (s)he can ask WSSC to do the design and construction. Most often, because of time constraints and costs, the applicant hires her/his own engineer and contractor.

A “connection” or an “extension?”



If WSSC pipes run in front of, or abut, a property, a “connection” is possible.



If pipes do not abut a property, the applicant generally must arrange for an “extension” of the pipeline.

3 What are the costs?

In either situation — whether the applicant just needs a connection or whether an extension must be constructed — obtaining WSSC service is not an inexpensive proposition. Applicants need to review WSSC costs early in the process. These costs may include plan design and/or review fees, permitting fees, Front Foot Benefit and Systems Development Charges. WSSC strongly suggests that potential applicants come to the WSSC office in Laurel to explore actual costs for the specific project.

Non WSSC costs can be substantial. Most of the costs are controlled by the market and not by WSSC, so a homeowner should also talk to an engineer and a registered, master plumber before making a decision to proceed. The cost of construction for extensions vary significantly, because the requirements of projects differ significantly. Lengths and sizes of pipes, locations, soil conditions, paving, and existing infrastructure all contribute to the actual costs of construction.

4 Is financial assistance available?

Connection fees for residential properties can be deferred, with interest, to the homeowner’s county property tax bill. Homeowners pay an amount each year, typically over a period of 23 years.

5 If I have more questions, where can I find answers?

You have several options:

- You can call 301-206-4003 (toll free at 800-828-6439).
- Stop by our One Stop Shop on the lobby level of the WSSC office building located at 14501 Sweitzer Lane, in Laurel.
- Or visit our website at www.wsscwater.com for a detailed explanation of the various requirements and processes. On the homepage, go to the menu bar at the top, select “Business” and scroll down and select “Development Services.” From this page you may select both the “Developers” or “Homeowners” links, taking you to detailed step-by-step processes along with the fees, forms, flow charts and various informational items.

Checklist for Possible WSSC Connection Fees

This information is provided as an example only. Every connection project is different with numerous variables involved. Each variable may have different fees that apply. For specific project requirements and cost estimates, you should contact WSSC Permit Services at (301) 206-4003.

There are two examples provided below. Example 1 involves fees for Residential House Connections and Example 2 illustrates typical fees that may be required for System Extensions. Your property may only need a House Connection. However, it may need both a System Extension and a House Connection. In addition, if a System Extension is required to lay the pipe in the road, you have the choice between paying WSSC to build the project or hiring an outside contractor who will need to obtain a WSSC System Extension Permit (SEP), which incurs various fees as illustrated below.

Example 1: Residential House Connection Permit Fee Examples

House Connection permits are issued when *existing* water and/or sewer pipelines are located in the public roadway (street) or are otherwise available to make a connection to the property.

Most Common Types of Fees	Example: Criteria	Example: Estimated Cost
Water House Connection (WHC)	1" WHC	\$5,900
Sewer House Connection (SHC)	4" SHC	\$10,250
System Development Charge (SDC)	3-4 Toilets	\$5,090
Plumbing Inspection	Standard	\$450
Example: Total Costs		\$21,690

The WSSC fees above are for house connection(s) to be built from the mainline pipe located in the public roadway (street) up to the property line only. There will be additional expenses for a Registered Plumber (who must be licensed with WSSC) to build the on-site plumbing (inside the applicant's property line) into the house. Depending on whether the property was previously assessed for front foot benefit charges, the connection may activate an assessment for the property. Homeowners should contact WSSC's Assessment Unit (301-206-8032) to determine the potential applicability of these charges.

Example 2: System Extension Fee Examples

When water and/or sewer pipelines *do not exist* in the street, they need to be built and extended in front of a property wishing to connect and be served.

Below are examples of fees that could possibly apply to an extension project. The first column shows fees that might apply to WSSC built projects. There are approximately 10 different fees that may apply to a WSSC built project. The second column shows some permit fee examples should you hire outside engineers and contractors to build the project. There are approximately 25 fees that may apply to an SEP project. Contact WSSC or visit our website for a complete list of fees for system extensions.

EXAMPLE FEES FOR WSSC BUILT PROJECTS

- Feasibility Report Preparation
- Data Base Search for Possible Contamination
- In-House Design Deposit for WSSC Design
- Design Deposit for Applicant's Engineer Design
- Deficit Payment
- Front Foot Benefits
- Amendments
- Water House Connection
- Sewer House Connection
- System Development Charge

EXAMPLE FEES FOR SYSTEM EXTENSION PERMITS (SEP)

- Hydraulic Planning Analysis Request
- Data Base Search for Possible Contamination
- Amendments
- Review For System Integrity
- Additional Reviews of Unsigned Drawings
- Additional Reviews for Minor Revisions of Signed Drawings
- Additional Reviews for Major Revisions/Splitting Signed Drawings
- Construction Services
- Re-test or Additional Tests
- Inspection Services Overtime
- Re-review of As-Built Drawings
- System Development Charge



WSSC
 14501 Sweitzer Lane
 Laurel MD 20707-5902

www.wsscwater.com

General phone number
 301-206-9772

24-hour emergency service
 301-206-4002

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Where does WSSC water come from?

Two rivers, the Patuxent and the Potomac, are the sources of all the water that WSSC filters and processes. The source water treated at the Patuxent Water Filtration Plant (WFP) is held in two reservoirs — Triadelphia and Rocky Gorge — and is pumped to the plant. The Potomac WFP draws water directly from the Potomac River.

The map shows the approximate service areas of both plants. As indicated, some areas receive blended water, processed at both the Patuxent and Potomac WFPs.

