

# Water FAQ

## *I'm considering connecting to municipal water.....*

- **Who is in charge of the water construction project?**

The Village of Bayside has no position on municipal water or well water. The projects that are taking place in the Village are entirely voluntary and are based off of homeowner interest. No resident is restricted from gaining access to municipal water nor are they required to gain access.

The Village of Bayside is helping to facilitate the construction projects through a contract with the City of Mequon. All private lateral work is being done by a private contractor.

- **When the project comes to my area will I be required to participate?**

No, this project is entirely voluntary. Homeowners that want municipal water are choosing to participate and only the homeowners who receive municipal water will be paying for the project.

- **How much of the Village is on municipal water?**

After the 2013 water construction project is complete, 40% of homes in the Village will be on municipal water.

- **How can I tell who is interested in municipal water in my area?**

A water survey to gauge the interest of residents in the Village is available online. Please complete the [survey](#) by August 20. A [map](#) on the Village website displays the level of interest from residents who have completed the survey.

- **Will my home assessment go up if I have municipal water?**

There is no quantifiable study that suggests connection to municipal water will affect your home assessment one way or another. According to numerous local real estate agents, connection to municipal water may make your home more desirable on the market.

- **When can I have water in my area?**

When water can be installed in your neighborhood depends upon several factors, including how many homes are interested, engineering, etc. For more information or determine if your area is eligible, please complete the [online survey](#).

- **Does water from the Mequon Water Utility come from Mequon wells?**

Mequon Water Utility serves 100% treated Lake Michigan water. There are two suppliers, [Milwaukee Water Works](#) and the [North Shore Water Commission](#), both of which have separate intake pipes but come from the same water source.

- **How is the water quality from the Mequon Water Utility?**

Mequon Water Utility, as with all utilities, has rigorous testing standards on water quality. These standards go beyond what is even required of homeowners with private wells. Online is the most recent [Mequon water quality report](#).

- **Will I still need a water softener?**

The use of a water softener is a personal choice, however 95% of current Mequon Water Utility customers do not have a water softener.

- **Does Mequon water have fluoride in it?**

Yes, per the 2012 water quality report, there are 4 milligrams/liter or 4 parts per million of fluoride. There are a few ways to remove fluoride from your drinking water which include reverse osmosis. You can learn more [online](#).

- **What permits are required?**

At a minimum two plumbing permits are required. Depending on the other work done in the house or the current infrastructure there could be additional permits. For specific information please contact [Rebecca VanRegenmorter](#) at Village Hall (414-351-8812).

- **How much will this project cost?**

The costs are based off a myriad of factors which include construction costs, the route chosen and the number of homes in the project. For the proposed project area, there are no cost estimates at this time.

Below are the cost estimates for the current project:

1. Initial commitment check (current project charged \$300 as commitment and to cover initial engineering)
2. Public infrastructure – fire hydrants, water mains and service laterals to the property line (approx. \$8,000)
3. Private lateral – pipe that connects the property line to the home; also includes water meter provided by Mequon (\$1,750)
4. Internal plumbing – plumbing that needs to be done inside the home to connect existing plumbing to municipal water; also separates well water connection (ranges \$400 - \$1000)
5. Private well – you can keep and operate your well for watering, or properly abandon it (\$25 to keep, plus safe water tests or \$1500-\$2000 to abandon)
6. Quarterly water bill (average is \$150 per quarter)

- **What are the costs for a lateral?**

Average costs can differ. The 2013 water construction project, which utilized a bulk rate, is \$1,750. Some individual homes have connected in the \$2,700 - \$3,000. Specific pricing is determined at the time the project moves forward.

- **Can I hook up my house to my neighbor's house so I don't have to pay a lateral cost?**

Each home must have its own lateral. This is a legal requirement. Two neighbors cannot split the cost of a lateral.

- **When will the lateral and indoor plumbing be done?**

The lateral and indoor plumbing would be completed after the mainline is installed. After the mainline is installed and passes two separate safe water samples, then your indoor plumbing can be completed to separate your well water and turn on your connection to municipal water. While your lateral may be installed at one point, there may be a delay before the indoor plumbing is completed. Again, this is due to the timing of the mainline work and the separation of your private well.

- **How long will my home be without water during construction?**  
This depends on the private plumber used, and your current plumbing. The average time is approximately 2-4 hours during the separation and connection to the municipal source.
- **What can I do with my well?**  
If you live at a home with a private well, you have the option to either keep your existing well after connection to the municipal water system, or properly abandon the well.
  1. **Well Abandonment** - If you choose to abandon your well, you must have it done properly by following the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) guidelines. Contractors licensed in this field are responsible for filling out the proper permits and submitting the necessary paperwork to WDNR.
  2. **Well Operation Permit** - If you choose to keep your well, please complete and submit the below items as part of your well operation permit.
    - Make sure there is no cross connection between the municipal water supply and well water supply (this must be verified during your plumbing inspection).
    - The well and pump shall have a history of producing safe water evidenced by at least one coliform bacteria sample performed by a certified laboratory.
    - Complete and pay \$25 for the well operation permit and submit all the above materials to the Bayside Village Hall for review.
- **Does someone need to see the water meter or is it read remotely?**  
The City of Mequon uses a remote reader, utilizing a drive by van. The meter itself has a wireless reader similar to that of a wireless router.
- **What are the costs for City Water? How often will I be billed?**  
The average quarterly cost for Mequon City Water is \$160. You are billed quarterly. We encourage all residents to purchase a rain barrel to reduce water costs and help protect our lakes. You can read more on the [Village website](#).
- **How should I ground my electrical system?**  
This is a question for a licensed electrician.

***I'm in the 2013 Water Construction Project Area and I have some additional questions.....***

- **There was damage done to my property. Who is responsible for restoring the property?**  
The Village of Bayside is helping to facilitate this project through a contract with the City of Mequon. All private lateral work is being done by a private contractor. After the work is complete in your area the contractors will fill in any holes and plant grass seed. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to help water the grass that is replanted.  
  
If you believe there was damage done to your property it is the responsibility of the contractor to correct the problem. You can contact Mark Haas at City Water (414-232-1338 ) or Joe DeBelak Plumbing at 262-251-2630.
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  - o Complete and pay \$25 for the well operation permit and submit all the above materials to the Bayside Village Hall for review.

- **What are the final costs for the project?**

The costs are based off a myriad of factors which include construction costs, the route chosen and the number of homes in the project. For the current project area, we will not know the final costs until all construction is complete. It is estimated that the final costs will be lower than the amount that homeowners originally paid. Homeowners will receive a refund for any amount that is over the project costs.

- **What are the quarterly costs for City Water? How often will I be billed?**

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- **Does someone need to see the water meter or is it read remotely?**

The City of Mequon uses a remote reader, utilizing a drive by van. The meter itself has a wireless reader similar to that of a wireless router.

- **I now have City Water, and the pressure is disappointing. What should I do?**

Have a plumber verify that the internal plumbing is not plugged with iron build-up from the decades of well water. This may be the cause of the reduced pressure.

- **My home is in the 2013 water construction project area, but I did not connect to municipal water. Can I still connect at a later date?**

Residents can access to municipal water at any time but the costs will vary based upon location. Please contact [Rebecca VanRegenmorter](#) at Village Hall (414-351-8812) for more information.