

Contractor crews working for Fairfax Water will be in your neighborhood soon to replace aging water mains. Here's what you can expect during construction:

1. **Utility Marking:** As required by law, underground utility lines are located and marked.



2. **Material and Equipment Staging:** The contractor will deliver materials and equipment to the job site and sawcut sections of pavement that will be excavated.



3. **Trench Excavation:** New water mains are typically installed using an open-cut construction method by excavating a trench in a section of the pavement or ground. This may create noise and dust and is typically done on weekdays, during the day, to minimize disturbances to residents and traffic.



4. **Parking and Traffic:** There may be temporary lane closures and/or parking restrictions. Where lane closures are required, the contractor will have flaggers to guide traffic safely through the work zone. The contractor or Fairfax Water's inspector will also ensure that residents have access to their driveways. Work generally progresses along the street during the day, so parking restrictions only occur within a few hundred feet of the work on any given day.

5. **Temporary Trench Restoration:** In paved areas, trenches will be covered with temporary asphalt pavement daily to provide a drivable surface. In certain locations, steel plates may be used to cover open trenches.



6. **Testing:** After installation of the new water main is complete, it must pass a series of tests before it can be placed in-service. Testing the water can take up to a week before sample results are available.
7. **Service Reconnections:** The next step is to connect service lines to the new water main and the new water main to the existing water system. This may result in a few service interruptions. We will notify customers in advance of all planned service disruptions. Door hangers will be placed on customers' front doors a minimum of 48 hours in advance, which will note the estimated time of the disruption. Service interruptions typically last at least 30 minutes, and may last up to a few hours. After the connections have been made, you may notice some slight discoloration of the water and cloudy water, or noises caused by entrained air. If this occurs, turning on an upstairs faucet (tub, if possible) for 5-10 minutes should take care of the problem. Service line connections to the new water main generally take less than 15 minutes. Fairfax Water's inspector or contractor will knock on your door to inform you of the short outage if you are home.
8. **Final Restoration:** The final step is to restore disturbed areas and repave roadways in accordance with Virginia Department of Transportation or other permitting authority requirements. This work may take several weeks to begin and complete due to weather limitations and the establishment of paving limits by the permitting authorities. Fairfax Water strives to restore all areas as quickly as possible.



A Fairfax Water Inspector (in marked vehicle) will be onsite periodically throughout the day to oversee the work by our contractor and address any questions and concerns. If you are not able to contact the inspector onsite, please contact our Chief Construction Engineer, at (703) 289-6361 or email us at construction-department@fairfaxwater.org.

Note that there may be temporary periods when no one is onsite, until final paving is complete