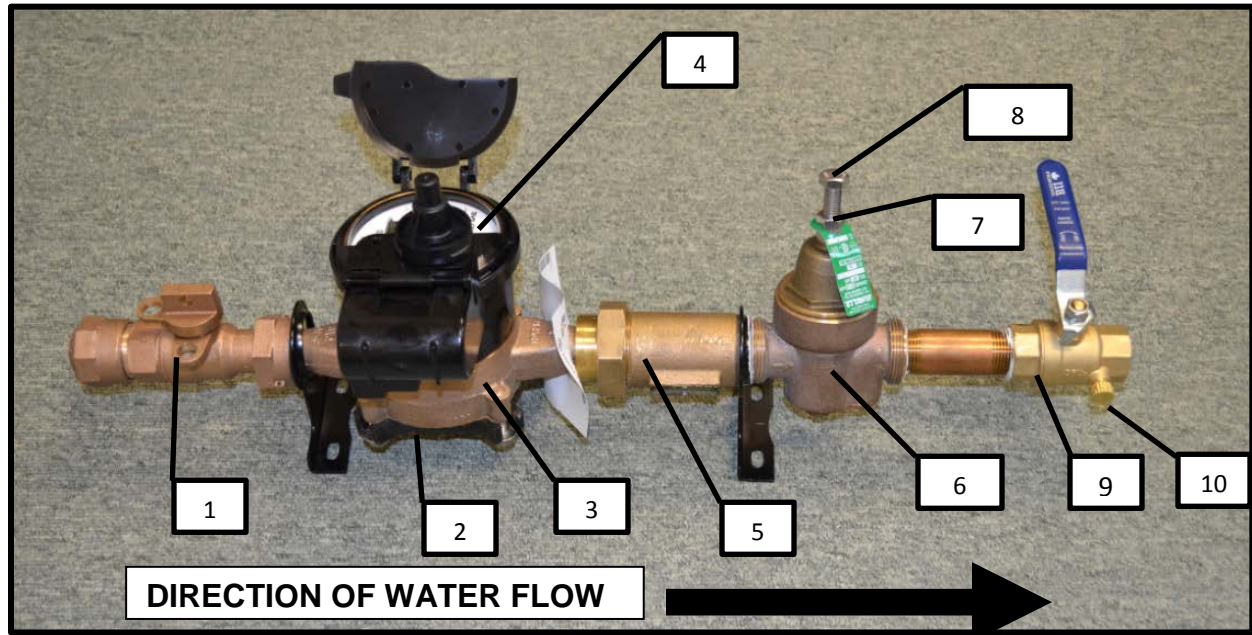


GETTING TO KNOW YOUR METER ASSEMBLY

Diagram of Typical Meter Installation



Meter Assembly Component

1. Isolation Valve (attached to waterline from street)
2. Water Meter Frost Plate (sacrificial black steel, under meter, will break if frozen)
3. Water Meter Base
4. Water Meter Register Head
5. Dual Check Backflow Preventer (DuC)
6. Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV)
7. Pressure Reducing Valve Lock Nut (hexagonal nut)
8. Pressure Reducing Valve Operating Bolt (threaded bolt with hexagon head)
9. Residential Isolation Valve (connects to household plumbing)
10. Drain Port (for winterizing plumbing) (not included in a pit meter assembly)

These are the generic components to a water meter assembly in Lambton Shores. There are variations of older style valves but they all operate similarly.

Adjusting the Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV)

Over time, the PRV will loosen and start to restrict flow, and you may notice reduced water pressure in your home. When this occurs, it's likely that the PRV requires to be adjusted. Please note that the municipality does not adjust the PRV, this is a home owners responsibility. If you do not feel comfortable making these adjustments the municipality recommends that you contact a licensed plumber to assist you.

Draining Your Plumbing

Many cottagers will need to drain their plumbing before they leave for the winter months. The water meter needs to be in a frost free area as the back flow preventer (# 5 on diagram) prevents draining of the actual meter. Please note that meter pit assemblies are not installed with a drain port as they often corrode and fail in the harsh environment.

Please note that the municipality does not drain plumbing on private property, this is a home owners responsibility. If you do not feel comfortable making these adjustments the municipality recommends that you contact a licensed plumber to assist you.

Clarification on Meter Assembly Ownership

The municipality often receives inquiries about what parts of the meter assembly are owned by the home owner and what parts of the meter assembly are owned by the municipality. While the municipality replaces all components of a meter assembly during a capital project installation, Lambton Shores only owns the actual meter. The other valve components are considered part of the plumbing system and ownership lies with the home owner. Over time, the valves that make up the meter assembly become wore and do not function as they did when they were new. As a value-added aspect of the meter replacement program, Lambton Shores replaces the home owners aged valves (#1, 5, 6 & 7 on the diagram above) with quality new parts.

The municipality will repair any leaks in the meter assembly for one year after installation (unless leak is caused by frozen water in the plumbing). After that one year, the municipality does not perform maintenance or repairs on the meter assembly components other than the water meter itself.

Protecting Your Meter Assembly

A home owner is required to ensure the area they designate for the meter assembly on their property is protected from cold weather conditions. Many cottage owners do not heat their cottages during the winter. In these cases the owner should take precautions to ensure the meter does not freeze. Draining the plumbing during winterizing will not remove the water from the water meter as the backflow preventer will not allow the meter to drain. If the meter is exposed to freezing conditions, the sacrificial frost plate (#2 on the diagram) will break to prevent damage to the meter. Frost plate repairs must be completed by the municipality and the costs are billed to the home owner. Installing a meter pit is the most popular way for cottagers to ensure they don't incur costs of repairing frozen plumbing. Please consult a licensed plumber for any other assembly components (#1, 5, 6 & 7) requiring maintenance or repair.