

Rain Tank Meter Installation Guidelines

These guidelines are to be followed when installing an Elster Kent water meter on a rain tank water system.

The meter installer

Watercare requires that a Certified Plumber install the water meter. Work on drinking water systems, including a rain tank supply, is considered sanitary plumbing under the Plumbers, Gasfitter and Drain layers Act 2006 and as such must be undertaken or supervised by a Certified Plumber.

All Certified Plumbers have a certification number. A plumber's certification can be checked at: <https://www2.pgdb.co.nz/PGDB/PublicRegister.aspx>

The water meter

- An Elster Kent meter and a filter (Y strainer) is required. No other meter types will be accepted by Watercare
- A 20mm sized meter will be suitable for most domestic properties. Non-Domestic users may require a different sized meter
- The meter is to be installed in accordance with all manufacturers' guidelines. These can be found on the Elster meter website, www.water.metering@gb.elster.com.

Siting the water meter

The Watercare Meter Reader must have safe and easy walk-up access to read the meter. This means the meter **should not** be installed in the following areas:

- In or across an already established garden
- Under any stairs, eaves or other areas where the meter is not easily accessible
- Anywhere it might be overgrown or damaged
- Over or near a gulley trap
- Inside any locked area, this includes inside a basement area that at some point could be locked, a garage, shed, pump box, pump cover or a pump house that can be locked. Pipe work may need to be extended to enable the meter to be located outside the house or other buildings
- The meter should be installed after the pump and on the main water pipe that supplies the household. Where two or more water tanks service the household, the water meter must be fitted to the last section of pipe feeding the house so as to capture water from both tanks. A rain tank that does not supply the household need not be metered
- The filter(Y strainer) should be installed facing away from the house to enable easy removal for cleaning
- Position the meter so that the height and accessibility do not prevent it from being read and ensure the dials are facing upwards.
- Where the meter has to sit on its side the dials must face to the front

Fixtures and Fittings

Brackets for mounting the meter

- It is recommended that brass fixtures are used to mitigate the risk of rust in coastal areas
- Drilling through house cladding (water tight membranes) is not recommended as it may compromise water tightness

Valves for opening and isolating the meter

- Brass gate valves should be used, as valves with steel or plastic handles will rust over time
- Two isolating valves are recommended to ensure the water supply can be isolated from the meter. The isolation will ensure there is no accidental water loss in the event of maintenance or replacement of the meter and the filter. The customer should be shown where these are and how to turn them off and on once the installation is completed.

Watercare Services may refuse to change an account to the fixed/volumetric tariff

An application will be rejected by Watercare if:

- The meter installed is not a Kent 20mm (or larger where required)
- There is no installer company, plumber name and certification number on the application form
- The meter identifying number is not provided
- No initial reading is provided
- Location instructions are not included on the application form