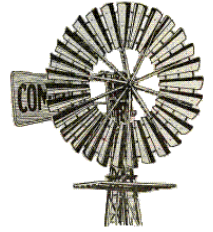


City of Merkel Texas



100 Kent Street
Phone: (325)928-4911 Fax: (325)928-3171
www.merkeltexas.com

City Services Application

Account Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Contact Ph# _____ SS# _____ DL # _____

Joint Account Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Contact Ph# _____ SS # _____ DL # _____

Primary E-mail Address _____ Secondary E-mail Address _____

Previous Address _____ New Service Address _____

Mailing Address _____ Rent or Own _____ Beginning Date _____

Printed Bill

E-mail & Print Bill

I. PURPOSE

The City of Merkel is responsible for protecting the drinking water supply from contamination or pollution, which could result from improper plumbing practices. The City of Merkel enforces the plumbing restrictions listed below to ensure public health and welfare. When there is reason to believe that a cross-connection or other unacceptable plumbing practices exist, the City of Merkel will conduct an inspection. If any cross-connections or unacceptable plumbing exist, the customer will immediately correct the problem by properly installing a back-flow prevention device and have this tested. Copies of all testing and maintenance records will be provided to the City of Merkel. The customer must sign this agreement before the City of Merkel will begin service. In addition, when service to an existing connection has been suspended or terminated, the water system will not re-establish service unless it has a signed copy of this agreement.

II. PLUMBING RESTRICTIONS

The following practices are prohibited by State regulations:

- a. No direct connection between the public drinking water supply and a potential source of contamination is permitted. Potential sources of contamination will be isolated from the public water system by an airgap or an appropriate back flow prevention device.
- b. No cross-connection between the public drinking water supply and private water system is permitted. These potential threats to the public drinking water supply will be eliminated at the service connection by the installation of an airgap or an appropriate back flow prevention device.
- c. No pipe or pipe fitting which contains more than 0.25% lead may be used for installation or repair of plumbing at any connection which provides water for human use.
- d. No solder or flux, which contains more than .2% lead, can be used for installation or repair of plumbing at any connection, which provides water for human use.

III. ENFORCEMENT

If the customer fails to comply with the terms stated above, the City of Merkel will, at its option, terminate service or properly install, test, and maintain an appropriate back flow prevention device at the service connection. Any expenses associated with the enforcement will be billed to the customer.

IV. FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE

a. SERVICE CHARGE

1. All customers are required to pay a service charge of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for services per location.

b. SECURITY DEPOSIT

1. All customers are required to make a security deposit of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) for any City services. In lieu of the security deposit a letter of credit from a former utility provider with good standing service will be accepted. After one year of good pay history, Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) a month will be applied to the account until deposit is refunded. The security deposit may be applied to any unpaid balance owed to the City. At any time, City Service is discontinued, the security deposit will be applied to any unpaid balance. Any remaining credit amount will be issued to you the following month after your final bill is produced.

c. PAYMENTS

1. All Payments are due and payable on or before the 15th day of each month.

d. RETURNED CHECKS/DRAFT

1. There is a Thirty-Five Dollar (\$35.00) fee that will be added to your account for any returned check or draft. The amount due plus the Thirty-Five Dollar (\$35.00) fee must be paid in cash, credit/debit card or money order immediately to avoid legal action or interrupted utility service.

e. LATE FEE

1. Any payment not received by the end of business day (**Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:30pm**) on the 15th is subject to a late fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00). If the 15th falls on the weekend, payment will be due on the business day before the 15th. If payment is not received by the business day before the 15th, there will be a Fifteen Dollar (\$15.00) late fee added to the account on the first business day after the 15th.

f. ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

1. By 9:00 am, on the morning of the Disconnection Date, if there is a balance on your account, there will be a Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) Administrative Fee added to your account for making the Cut Off List (This also does include if the City Employees have not made it to your service address to disconnect services). All Disconnections are made on the morning of the of the Disconnection Date. Re-connection after hours will be Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00). Your account balance including the after-hour's fee must be paid by Money Order for your services to be reconnected.

g. METER TAMPERING

1. Your meter will be pulled and or locked and a fee of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) will be added to your account for tampering with the City of Merkel's water meters. You will also be required to appear before the City of Merkel's Municipal Judge and a possible Five Hundred Dollar fine (\$500.00) *****DO NOT TAMPER*****

h. TRANSFER FEE

1. All Customers who would like to transfer an account to another address will be required to pay a Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00) transfer fee.

i. METER TESTING FEE

1. At the request of a customer, we will test your meter for accuracy. A ¾" and 1" meter will cost One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$125.00) and a 1 ½" and 2" meter will cost Two Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$225.00). These fees will be waived if the meter test results come back faulty.

j. LEASE AGREEMENT

1. The City requires a lease agreement from your landlord when renting, in order to obtain services.

k. COLLECTIONS

1. Any account balance that remains outstanding for a period of ninety days may be turned over to a third-party collection service. Collection fees of 35% for balances less than one year and 50% for balances over 1 year, plus any legal fees required for collections will be added to account balances. Past due balances and collection efforts will be reported to credit agencies.

I HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT AND AGREE TO READ AND ABIDE BY THE ABOVE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS INFORMATION MAY BE CHANGED FROM TIME TO TIME, AS APPROVED BY THE CITY OF MERKEL, CITY COUNCIL.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NEW ADDRESS _____ (ACCOUNT # OFFICE USE ONLY) _____