

Aqua is one of a select few water utilities that has its own, Virginia state-certified testing laboratory and a sophisticated research laboratory that conducts studies in taste and odor, compounds, and other important water quality issues. Aqua water quality staff have helped develop industry standards for taste and odor analysis. Aqua's laboratory tests for more than 160 different contaminants and analyzes more than 50,000 water samples each year.

Since the early 1990s, Aqua has directed its capital dollars toward the systematic rehabilitation and replacement of its distribution system. Strong infrastructure is fundamental to the reliable delivery of water. Addressing potential problems before they negatively affect service helps reduce the potential for service shutdowns and water loss due to leakage and breaks.

## *Knowing Your* **PLUMBING SYSTEM**

The plumbing for which you are responsible actually includes the service line - the pipe that originates at the curb box near your front property line and connects to your home or building. You are also responsible for protecting the water meter from excess pressure, freezing, and other damage. If your meter is located within a meter pit, you are responsible for keeping it visible, maintaining the pit, as well as all plumbing within it.

*Every property owner should know the following about their plumbing system:*

1. Where the curb box is located.
2. The location of the master valve, which will allow you to shut off the water to your property in case of an emergency.
3. How to protect your plumbing from severe weather conditions, which can result in expensive repairs.
4. How to protect your plumbing from pressure, either internal or external to your property.

