

Obtaining a hydrant cap and key for City of Chicago fire hydrants

Due to recent changes at the Department of Water Management, their warehouse is no longer releasing hydrant caps or keys to residents using hydrant water to irrigate crops. Policy has shifted requiring gardeners and farmers to first apply for a permit for community gardens at this site: <http://hup.buildinganewchicago.org/#/home>

Once the permit is approved, permit holders must purchase their own caps and keys. Unfortunately, the only way to reduce a Chicago fire hydrant to a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose coupling, two hydrant fittings must be used. The first reduces the circular hydrant opening from $4\frac{1}{2}$ " to $2\frac{1}{2}$ " and a second fitting then reduces the $2\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ ", the appropriate size for a common garden hose. Once both fittings are in place, you'll also need a $\frac{3}{4}$ " back-flow preventer before attaching your $\frac{3}{4}$ " hose. When purchasing, keep in mind that hydrant and hose attachments fit 'female' to 'male' threading from the hydrant. The threading types may vary also (the grooves on the fitting that screw onto the next fitting). A Chicago Fire Hydrant is $4\frac{1}{2}$ " with NST threading so you'll need a female $4\frac{1}{2}$ " to male $2\frac{1}{2}$ " with NST threading to female $2\frac{1}{2}$ " with NST threading to male $\frac{3}{4}$ " with GHT (Garden Hose Threading) male threading to $\frac{3}{4}$ " female vacuum breaker to male to female $\frac{3}{4}$ " garden hose.

The following is a list of places to obtain hydrant fittings and keys. Plan to spend at least \$200 to access a hydrant. All listed costs do not include taxes and shipping. The permits are still free to obtain. AUA does not endorse any of the companies producing or selling the following items or the gendering of pipe fittings.

Hydrant Keys:

[Dixon Heavy Duty Adjustable Hydrant Wrench](#) \$21.39

[Zak Tool 15' Ratcheting Socket Hydrant Wrench](#) \$116.59

[Zak Tool ZT-79 Ratcheting Socket Hydrant Wrench Fits Pentagon Stems 1-7/8" in.](#) \$139.00

[Dixon Valve & Coupling PHW Plated Iron Fire Equipment, 5 Hole Hydrant Wrench, 14-1/4" Length](#) \$17.62

[Red Head Hydrant Wrench With Single Spanner](#) \$38.00

[Hydrant Keys from Grainger](#) \$21.54- \$124.00

[Bon Tool Adjustable Fire Hydrant Wrench](#) \$35.77

Hydrant fittings:

$4\frac{1}{2}$ " to $2\frac{1}{2}$ "

[Brass 4 1/2" to 2 1/2" Fitting](#) \$130.23

[Sewer Builders Supply](#) \$153.99 at 9001 S Green St. is likely the only place to purchase this size fitting locally.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ "

[Bon Tool Fire Hydrant Adapter](#) \$24.40

[Grainger Fire Hose Plug Adapter](#) \$20.25