INSTA-VALVE 250 SUCCESS STORY

NO SHUTDOWNS, NO SETBACKS: THE SMART VALVE STRATEGY BEHIND ENGLEWOOD'S WATER UPGRADE

THE CHALLENGE

To proactively remove lead infrastructure from the drinking water system, the City of Englewood, Colorado, launched an accelerated Lead Reduction Program. This initiative includes replacing approximately 3,000 lead service lines with copper pipes across the city's distribution system. A key challenge was isolating critical segments of an aging water infrastructure—some portions dating back before 1938—without disrupting essential services. Hydra-Stop's Insta-Valve technology provided a reliable, efficient solution to help the city mitigate isolation issues, accelerate project timelines, and ensure service continuity during lead line replacements.

THE SOLUTION

Many of Englewood's water mains and valves were installed between the early 20th century and the 1960s, leaving the city with an aging and rigid distribution network. During the early stages of the Lead Replacement Program, a 12" water main broke in a key commercial area, and utilities staff were unable to isolate it due to a lack of control points. This prompted an emergency installation of a 12" Hydra-Stop Insta-Valve to restore service and highlighted systemic risks. Englewood Utilities realized that similar vulnerabilities existed throughout the network, especially in areas servicing households and businesses.

PROJECT IMPACT

To regain control over critical infrastructure segments and ensure safe, uninterrupted lead line replacement, the city partnered with Municipal Pipe Services and AGL Construction to deploy approximately 91 Hydra-Stop Insta-Valves, ranging from 4" to 12". These insertion valves were installed at key intersections around Englewood—often in densely trafficked and commercially vital areas. Since March 2025, 53 valves have been installed over 26 days, with a target of two valves installed per day. The effort significantly reduced the risk of uncontrolled leaks and minimized the scope of service disruptions. Thanks to the increased flexibility afforded by these valves, Englewood Utilities is now able to replace lead service lines more efficiently while maintaining consistent service to residents and businesses

> *Englewood has around 21 miles of water main and valves that were installed prior to 1938. Most of the remaining distribution system was installed in the 1950's and 60's making isolating water mains a challenge. Installing 91 Hydra-Stop insertion valves throughout the distribution system gives us control over a large area of the system we could not isolate prior to this project. We are now able to proceed with the remaining 2000 lead service line replacements without putting the system and our customers at risk of uncontrolled leaks and large system outages.* — **Ryan Ratcliff, Distribution & Collection Manager, CITY OF ENGLEWOOD**

HYDRA-STOP
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