



# Bedding and Backfill of Water and Sewer Lines



This handout provides general information to plumbing and excavation contractors and homeowners about the backfill requirements for underground piping for plumbing.

## Underground piping

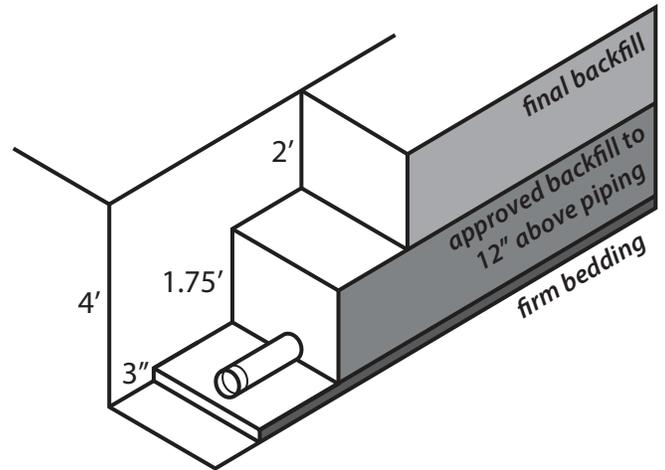
The dwelling requirements of the [2014 Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code \(OPSC\) Section 314.2](#) requires that “piping in the ground shall be laid on a firm bed for its entire length.” [OPSC Section 315.3](#) requires that “adequate precaution shall be taken to ensure proper compactness of backfill around piping without damage to such piping”.

## Trenches

Trenches shall be backfilled in thin layers to 12 inches (305 mm) above the top of the piping with clean earth, which shall not contain stones, boulders, cinder fill, frozen earth, construction debris or other materials that would damage or break the piping or cause corrosive action.

## Bedding and backfilling material

The Inspection Services Division has and will accept the use of ¾ minus rock or gravel for the purposes of bedding and backfilling such as underground plumbing piping as described in OPSC Sections 314.2 and 315.3.



## Helpful Information

Bureau of Development Services (BDS)  
City of Portland, Oregon  
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

### General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
BDS main number: 503-823-7300

### Permit Information is available at the following location:

Development Services Center (First Floor)  
For Hours Call 503-823-7310 | Select option 1  
Permitting Services (Second Floor)  
For Hours Call 503-823-7310 | Select option 4

## Scheduling an inspection

Call 503-823-7000, the BDS 24 hour inspection request line

Enter your IVR or permit number

Enter the three-digit inspection code for the type of inspection you are requesting

Enter a phone number where you can be reached during weekdays and if you want the inspection in the morning or afternoon

There must be an adult over age 18 to let the inspector inside

For more detailed information regarding the bureau’s hours of operation and available services;



Note: All information in this brochure is subject to change.