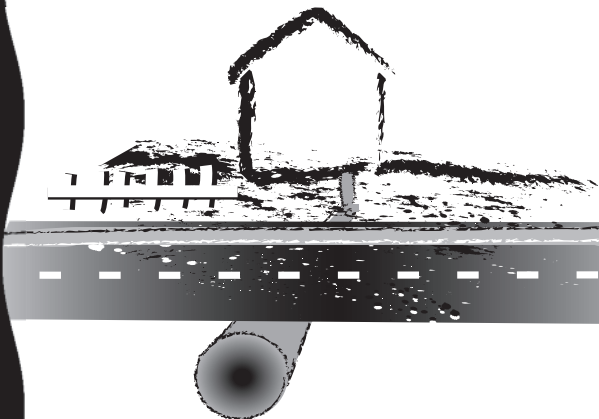


# Sewer Work in the Public Right-of-Way (ROW)

## Connections or Repair Work



This brochure is a guide to how to access the information you will need to perform sewer work in the public right-of-way. **All sewer contractors working within Portland are required to follow the *City of Portland Standard Construction Specifications Manual* and *Bureau of Environmental Services Sewer and Drainage Facilities Design Manual*.**



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# Sewer Connection and Repair Work in the Public Right-of-Way

Sewer construction or repair work past private property lines requires a Right-of-Way (ROW) sewer permit from the City of Portland. This guide will provide you and your contractor with the following information:

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## When a ROW Sewer Permit is Required

Anytime sewer work extends beyond the private property line (includes sidewalk, curb, and street), a ROW sewer permit is required. The following is a summary of work that requires this type of permit:

- Repairs to existing private sewer laterals under sidewalks
- Repairs to existing private sewer lines under streets (not city-owned)
- All connections to public sewer mains and sewer service laterals
- Relocations of existing sewer service laterals (from curb line to the main)
- Connections to existing sewer service laterals extended to private property
- Construction and/or extension of sewer service laterals to private property for future use
- Repair of existing private sewer lines in the ROW

## Who to Contact Before Conducting Sewer Connection or Repair Work

It is mandatory to dial 811 or call **1-800-332-2344** for utility locates at least 48 hours (two business days) before work begins. To apply for a sewer connection or repair permit, contact the Bureau of Development Services (BDS) Trade Dept., Development Services Center, at 1900 SW 4th Avenue or by calling **503-823-7363**. The Development Services Center is open Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All permittees are required to determine depth and location of existing sewer services in the area before conducting sewer work. You must also thoroughly perform an inspection of the existing private sewer line and verify that it is clear of obstructions before repair or connection. There are many unknowns when performing sewer work and pipe locations and site conditions may not always be obvious. The city recommends that you verify existing sewer services in the area by calling Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Development Review at **503-823-7761** before construction. A BES technician will access all available sewer information for the site and can offer you technical assistance before the work is conducted. Depending on the scope of work, additional city building permit requirements and fees may apply. Development Services Center staff can clarify this when you apply for the permit.

Some of Portland's sewer mains are very old and may require special construction methods to establish a new connection. The city can construct sewer taps and tee installations. Contractors may schedule the work with Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Maintenance Operations a minimum of one working day in advance. For locations east of the Willamette River, call **503-823-1780**. For locations west of the Willamette River, call **503-823-1744**. If no one is available at these phone numbers, please call the PBOT Communications Center at **503-823-1700**. You can call to schedule

taps Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Written approval must be obtained from BES and PBOT before using trenchless repair methods (i.e. boring, tunneling, sliplining, etc.) in the public ROW. Before beginning a trenchless installation, notify PBOT at **503-823-7002**, positively locate all utilities, and make a positive connection to the existing branch at the curb. For the cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) liner repair method, BES must give pre-approval. Call **503-823-7869** for more information.

### **Rules and Requirements for New Sewer Construction or Repair of Existing Sewers**

Sewer repairs and connections must be made in accordance with the city's *Standard Construction Specifications* (including current Special Provisions), the *BES Sewer and Drainage Facilities Design Manual*, Administrative Rules, and City Code. **It is imperative that all sewer contractors working in the City of Portland review the *Portland Standard Construction Specifications Manual* as referenced in this brochure.** (See the "Resources Available" section for information on how to obtain a hard copy or access the manual online.)

BES must pre-approve deviation from any standards. City Code, Chapter 17.32 "Sewer Regulations," requires BES authorization under the Public Works Permit process before any construction or alteration of a public sewer is allowed.

This process is detailed in the *BES Sewer and Drainage Facilities Design Manual*, Chapter 2 – Project Delivery, Permitting, and General Procedures, Section 2.5, pages 2-6 to 2-10.

Oregon law also requires that sewer work follow rules adopted by the Oregon Utility Notification Center (rules pertain to OAR 952-001-0010 through 0090). If you have questions or want to obtain a copy of the OAR rules, visit [www.digsafelyoregon.com](http://www.digsafelyoregon.com).

## Bond and Insurance Requirements for Work in the ROW

The legal property owner or the hired contractor can obtain City of Portland sewer connection permits. However, those who perform the sewer repair and connection work in the public ROW must be insured, licensed, and bonded with the State of Oregon and the City of Portland. You can get general liability insurance and City of Portland street opening bond requirements at the Trade Permits counter at the Development Services Center, located at 1900 SW 4th Avenue, or by calling 503-823-7363.

### Accepted Pipe Materials and Construction Methods

Sewer connections must be made according to both the *Sewer and Drainage Facilities Design Manual* (reference Table 4.1, Page 4-3), Administrative Rules, and the city's *Standard Construction Specifications* (including associated Special Provisions).

Also, approved pipe material may differ from the minimum standards accepted by Plumbing Code for private property. **ABS PIPE IS NOT APPROVED FOR USE IN THE PUBLIC ROW.** (see chart below ▼)

#### Allowed Pipe Materials and Minimum Pipe Sizes for New Connections to Public Sewers in the Public ROW:

##### 1 and 2 Family Dwellings

| Material     | Min. Size | Sewer Type     |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Concrete     | 6"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| Ductile Iron | 4"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| PVC          | 4"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| HDPE         | 4"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| CIPP         | 4"        | Sanitary/Storm |

##### Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Family

| Min. Size | Sewer Type     |
|-----------|----------------|
| 6"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| 6"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| 6"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| 6"        | Sanitary/Storm |
| 6"        | Sanitary/Storm |

HDPE = High Density Polyethylene  
 PVC = Polyvinylchloride  
 CIPP = Cured-in-place pipe

## Important Rules for Sewer Repair and Connection

- **SPOT REPAIRS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE PUBLIC ROW.** Any repair or connection to a new system in the public ROW (property line to curb) requires the repaired or replacement pipe to be of the same material and extend to face of the curb.
- When making a new connection to a public main line or lateral, the sewer line must be perpendicular (90°) in the public ROW. Angles are only allowed by exception and must be pre-approved by BES.
- The maximum slope in the public ROW (without special engineering and approvals) is one foot to one foot.
- Taps to a public main line must be 3 feet apart (outside diameter to outside diameter) and connections must allow the sewer flow to merge with the existing flow of the main. The minimum depth for deep connection risers is 15 feet and must be pre-approved by BES.
- Taps to manholes must be 1 foot apart (outside diameter to outside diameter) and must allow flow to merge with the existing flow at the invert. The minimum depth for an allowed inside drop connection is 15 feet and must be pre-approved by BES.
- For deep connection riser and piped inside drop connection requirements, see the *BES Sewer and Drainage Facility Design Manual and City Standard Details*.
- Contractors who tap clay sewer main lines must receive pre-approval from PBOT

Maintenance Operations. See the “Who do I contact before conducting sewer connection or repair work” section for more information.

- Connection of unlike pipe materials must be made with an approved flexible coupling with stainless steel shear bands. The use of a donut for sewer connections is not allowed.
- The maximum allowed lateral diameter must be at least one-half the diameter of the main line; however, BES allows a 6-inch lateral to connect with an 8-inch or 10-inch sewer. When it is necessary to connect a 6-inch to an 8-inch pipe, a manufactured tee may be installed into the existing sewer main.
- Private tax lots must have independent gravity connections to the public sewer. BES requires that all pre-existing shared connections, or “party sewers,” require disconnection. When separating party sewer connections, the property with direct frontage to the sewer main may retain the original connection.
- Watertight positive connections are required for all permitted lateral repairs.
- When private sewer pump systems are allowed on private property, the flow entering the public ROW pipe must be gravity-flow. Pump systems require review and approval by both BDS Plumbing and BES Development review staff, before installation.

## City Inspection Process for Sewer Work in the ROW

To schedule ROW inspections (except for CIPP liner installations), call **503-823-7002**. Please provide a 24-hour notice.

For CIPP liner inspection, call **503-823-7869** and submit a pre- and post-liner video and as-built drawing. See Portland Policy Documents: ENB-4.33 for rules and requirements: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/509066](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/509066). Call **503-823-7869** for CIPP inspection and more information.

For manhole taps, the city requires 24-hour notice. Contact your ROW inspector to troubleshoot any problems, or to clarify construction requirements.

For inspection on private property, call **503-823-7000** before 7:30 a.m. on the day of the inspection, to request an appointment. **All pipes must be inspected before backfilled.**



*working on a lateral in the right-of-way*

## Resources Available

**City of Portland Standard Construction Specifications Manual**  
Available for purchase at the Development Services Center or online at: [www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/40032](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/40032)

**Bureau of Environmental Services Sewer and Drainage Facilities Design Manual**  
Available for purchase at the Development Services Center or online at: [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/360710](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/article/360710)

**Bureau of Development Services Brochure #7 – Broken Sewer and Drain Lines**  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/158231](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/article/158231)

Go to [www.portlandoregon.gov/bes](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes) and search for “sewer line” for more information.

Environmental Services  
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Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Dean Marriott, Director

The City of Portland complies with all non-discrimination laws including Title VI (Civil Rights) and Title II (ADA). To request a translation, accommodation or additional information, please call 503-823-7740, or use City TTY 503-823-6868, or Oregon Relay Service: 711.