

Side Sewer Construction FAQs

Updated December 6, 2018

Do I need to pressure test the pipe?

For sewer only, you need to pressure test all new pipe that is greater than 10' in length. This is done by either a water pressure test, with a hydrostatic head of 6' above the crown of the pipe at the upper end of the test section, OR by filling the line with 3.5 psi of air (per City of Seattle Standard Specifications 7-17.3(4) B, Exfiltration Test). The line shall be under test when the inspector arrives and needs to hold for a minimum of 10 minutes to show no leakage.

Are there any restrictions on pipe fittings?

Yes, 90-degree bends and/or tees are not allowed. All changes in grade or line shall be made with 45 degree or 22 ½ degree bends or wyes. The maximum deflection of two adjacent fittings shall not exceed 45 degrees unless the adjacent fittings are spanned by straight pipe of 2 feet or more.

Do footing drains need to be inspected?

<http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/inspections/side-sewer-inspections>

Yes, the City of Seattle will inspect the connection tightline from the footing drains to a service drain. If your project has geotechnical special inspections, your geotechnical special inspector must inspect the footing drains prior to cover. The City of Seattle will inspect the discharge point of connection. Footing drains cannot be day-lighted to the ROW.

What size & type of pipe is required?

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codes/dr/DR2011-4.pdf>

- For storm or sewer on private property serving one unit, 4-inch is the minimum size allowed.
- For storm or sewer in the public right of way or for sewer serving two or more units, 6-inch is the minimum size allowed.
- For storm or sewer serving commercial or industrial site, 6-inch is the minimum size allowed.

There are two pipe products that are most commonly available.

- If you will have greater than 18" of cover over the pipe as measured from the crown of the pipe, PVC pipe – ASTM D 3034 SDR 35 is acceptable.
- If you will have less than 18" of cover over the pipe as measured from the crown of the pipe, PVC pipe schedule 40 – ASTM D 1785 with fittings per ASTM D 2466 and D 2467 is acceptable.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a solid wall pipe, also referred to as "well casing". Cellular core pipe is NOT acceptable.

Does the pipe need to be bedded?

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codes/dr/DR2011-4.pdf>

Bedding is required for the pipe materials (listed above) for both storm and sewer. The pipe must be bedded to the springline (half-way up the pipe) in 5/8" crushed rock (Type 22). This is an angular gravel without fines. The pipe needs to be bedded at the time of the inspection. Pea gravel is not acceptable for bedding PVC pipe.

Do I need to hire a Registered Side Sewer Contractor (RSSC) for my project?

<https://cosaccela.seattle.gov/portal/Cap/CapHome.aspx?module=DPDLicenses&TabName=DPDLicenses>

A RSSC is only required when working in the right-of-way (ROW). Work on private property can be done by anyone. When hiring a contractor, it is recommended that the contractor has done this type of work recently in the City of Seattle. Side sewer regulations differ greatly in different jurisdictions and from the plumbing code.

How do I become a Registered Side Sewer Contractor (RSSC)?

<http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/licensing-and-registration/side-sewer-contractor-registration>

You need to be a Registered Side Sewer Contractor (RSSC) to repair or construct a side sewer in the public right-of-way. You do not need to become an RSSC if you are only working on private property.

For more complete information please see the Side Sewer Permit website:

[http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-\(a-z\)/side-sewer-permit](http://www.seattle.gov/sdci/permits/permits-we-issue-(a-z)/side-sewer-permit)