



Water Service Installation Bulletin # 44

Department of Planning and Land Services, June 2007
Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2006 I Codes

Important Information Regarding Your Water Service Installation

All service pipe installed between the building and the water meter shall be installed in accordance with the following Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) requirements. (12/98)

INSPECTION

An open trench inspection and approval of the water service line from the meter or well site to the structure is required. See UPC Sections 313 and 315 for details.

IMPORTANT!!! DO NOT cover the pipe until the installation has been approved by the Pierce County inspector. Failure to do so will require exposing the pipe for inspection before the water service will be installed or activated.

WATER METER LOCATION

The location and access requirements for the water meter are set by the water purveyor.

PIPE DEPTH (UPC Section 609.1)

All service pipes leading from the building shall be buried not less than 12" below the average local frost depth of the proposed final grade, but in no case less than 12" below proposed final grade.

PIPE SIZE (UPC Section 610)

When making a determination as to the minimum water size and service pipe diameter to install, use UPC Section 610.8, in no case should the service pipe be less than one a three-quarter inch (3/4).

- Please be advised that the Public Works Department of Pierce County does not allow the installation of the building's water service lines within their respective rights-of-way. Additional information may be obtained by calling Pierce County Public Work, Franchise and Permits @ 253-798-7250

Contact your water purveyor for additional requirements.

BUILDING SHUT-OFF VALVE (UPC Section 605.2)

In one and two-family dwellings and within individual dwelling units in apartments the installation of the shut-off valve must be accessible at all times. It should not be:

- in a crawl space;
- in a ceiling or attic space;
- higher than five (5) feet above the finished floor elevation; or
- behind another appliance.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION (WAC 51.56 UPC Section 603)

Approved backflow prevention assemblies must be installed in accordance with the requirements of Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-290-490) and UPC Section 603. WAC 51.56.0603 requires coordination between Pierce County and the water purveyor for cross control requirements. For specific information, please call your water purveyor.

APPROVED WATER SERVICE LINE MATERIALS (UPC Section 604)

UPC Section 604, State Version.

604.1 Water pipe and fittings shall be of brass, copper, cast iron, CPVC, galvanized malleable iron, galvanized wrought iron, galvanized steel or other approved materials. Cast iron fittings used for water need not be galvanized if over two (2) inches (51 mm) in size. Asbestos-cement, PE, PVC, PEX-AL-PEX or PE-AL-PE, or other approved water pipe materials manufactured to recognized standards may be used for cold water distribution systems outside a building. PEX-AL-PEX water pipe and tubing may be used for hot and cold-water distribution systems within a building. Other products not listed in this section are acceptable for their intended use, provided that such materials or distribution systems are listed and approved in accordance with nationally recognized standards. All materials used in the water supply system, except valves and similar devices shall be of like material, except where otherwise approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS FROM OTHER UTILITIES

On-Site Sanitation (Septic) (Separation requirements are based on septic installation requirements of the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department.)

A horizontal separation of ten (10) feet must be maintained between water service lines and any part of an on-site sewage system including plumbing stub-out. Placement of a water service line closer than (10) feet to any component of the on-site sewage system requires the approval of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Any setback reduction will require express, written approval from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

Sanitary Sewer (Separation requirements are based on building sewer installation requirements of the serving sewer utility.)

A horizontal separation of ten (10) feet must be maintained between water service lines and any part of the sanitary building sewer. When it is necessary to cross a sanitary building sewer, the water service pipe must be installed above the sewer a minimum vertical clearance of three (3') feet, measured from the invert of the water line to the crown of the sewer.

Common Bury with other Utilities:

Electrical, Gas, Telephone, Cable, Television, Private Irrigation of Water Distribution Systems.

A recommended minimum separation of five (5) feet must be maintained between the water service pipe and any other utility, **except sanitary sewer which requires ten (10) feet**. A vertical separation between the water service pipe and all other utilities, except sanitary sewers, of six (6) inches is required.

NOTE: Within the service area for City of Tacoma water, the installation of the customer's water service pipe, underground secondary electrical service, cable television, telephone, and gas will be allowed in a common trench with conditions. You must coordinate with the City of Tacoma.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The customer is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the property side water service pipe from the meter to the residence.

It is the customer's responsibility to obtain any and all permits and easements that may be required to install and maintain the water service piping from the meter to the premises being served.

Pressure reduction valves must be installed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code when the static water pressure exceeds 80 P.S.I. The location of the pressure reduction valve must be accessible to the customer for maintenance and operation.

All pipe is to be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and the UPC.

To avoid damages to your property water purveyors normally will not turn on the water service unless the owner or a representative is present.