

Memorandum

To: Design, Construction and Development Community
From: Aaron Bowman – Acting Chief Building Official
Date: January 1, 2024
Re: Inspection Policy for Building Drainage Lines, Water Service Lines, and Fire Lines

The City of Missoula will be updating its inspection policy for building drainage lines, water service lines and fire lines effective February 1, 2024.

To meet State requirements, eliminate duplicative inspection processes, and to increase inspection efficiency, the City of Missoula is providing the following inspection protocols and requirements for building drain lines, fire lines, and water service lines. This policy will ensure all elements of these systems are properly installed, tested, and inspected in accordance with the various State and local requirements and provide a consistent process across all projects in the City.

Building Drain

Building Drain. MCA 37-69-101 (3) “Drainage system” means all the piping inside the walls of the building that conveys sewage or other liquid waste outside the building to the building sewer but that does not extend more than 2 feet outside the building way.

The plumber will obtain a permit prior to starting any work. The inspection will be called in by the licensed professional and the inspection will be performed by the Building Department.

Underground Inspection 1

Inspection of the inside of the building. For the plumber to make grade on the internal drainage system the plumber will stub the building drainage line 2 feet to the exterior of the foundation wall. The plumber will install the exterior cleanout, per Public Works Manual, on the exterior of the building. The testing of the building drainage system should meet the requirements of the adopted Uniform Plumbing Code and the manufacture’s testing procedure. All connections performed by the licensed plumber shall be under test at the time of building drain inspection.

Water Service Line/Fire Line

MCA 37-69-101 (7) (A) “Plumbing system” means all potable water supply and distribution pipes, plumbing fixtures and traps, drainage, and vent pipes, and building drains, including their respective joints and connections, devices, receptacles, and appurtenances within the

property lines of any premises, up to 20' beyond the building foundation line and includes potable water piping, water heaters, and vents for the premises.

The plumber will obtain a permit prior to starting any work. The inspection will be called in by the licensed professional and the inspection will be performed by the Building Department.

Underground Inspection 1

The plumbing contractor will install the water service line, sleeve, fire line, and trace wire inside of the building. For service lines 2-inches and smaller, they will leave the roll of polyethylene pipe outside of the foundation wall with the required amount of blue trace wire to reach the meter pit. Sectional water (4-inch and larger) line material shall be installed to the first joint beyond the footing.

Underground inspection 2

The scheduling of the second underground inspection shall not be done until the water service line and fire line are installed and connected to their respective service line valve. At this time, the plumber will call for the underground pressure test and inspection of the fire line and the water service line. This will be at underground plumbing inspection 2.

Questions pertaining to the procedures shall be directed to the City of Missoula Development Services Reception at 406.552.6630.