



Permits & Inspections
Division
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PERMITS & INSPECTIONS
Permits & Inspections is a Division of the Department of Planning & Development Services

WATER LINE REPAIR / REPLACEMENT

Will I need a permit to repair or replace the water line in my home?

Yes. A permit is required before repairing or replacing a water line.

Can I do the work myself?

You may qualify for a Homeowner's Permit if you meet all the following requirements:

- You are **knowledgeable** to do the work, and
- You reside in the home, and
- You own the home, and
- You are homestead-exempt with the Tom Green Co. Appraisal District. You can contact the Tom Green Co. Appraisal District via: www.tomgreencad.com, (325)658-5575, or in person at 2302 Pulliam St. to find out if you are homestead-exempt.

If you do not meet all these requirements, you must hire a licensed plumber to do the work. (In this case, the licensed plumber will take care of the permitting and inspection process.)

Are there any installation requirements I should be aware of?

The following is information on water line repair or replacement AFTER a permit has been obtained:

1. Dig up the old water line or cover on top of pipes and turn off the main water supply.
2. Check the depth of the ditch. The minimum depth allowed is 12 inches. If you cannot dig 12 inches deep, call and speak with a plumbing inspector for an approved alternate method.
3. Purchase the amount of piping material needed. The minimum allowable size is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Allowable materials are as follows: PVC plastic pipe, CPVC, galvanized, and copper type L. (Note: PVC is not approved to be installed under or inside the house.) All fittings must be pressure fittings.
4. Lay your pipe in the prepared ditch with the lettering facing up for the inspector to read. Make sure you provide a cut off valve enclosed in a valve box as close to the water meter as possible.
5. An inspection must be done prior to the pipes being covered.

Note: If you have a sprinkler system tied into the water line that is being repaired or replaced and that sprinkler system does not have a code-approved backflow prevention assembly, you will be required to have one installed. After installation a test is required by a certified backflow prevention assembly tester. (Some licensed plumbers or licensed irrigators have this certification.) Also, a separate shut off valve will be required for the sprinkler system.

Process to obtain the permit?

Homeowners: Permits must be requested in person at the Permits & Inspections Division in Community Development Building (just to the east of City Hall). If you have just recently applied for homestead exemption, bring proof of homestead exemption as well. (Note: There is no "application" for a plumbing permit.) Licensed plumbers with an A/R account may request a sprinkler system permit by phone.

Hours of Operation: 8 AM - 12 PM & 1 PM - 5 PM

No payments or permit issuance can be made after 4 PM due to accounting constraints.

2. This permit generally can be issued in minutes. Work may commence once the permit has been issued.
3. It will be the responsibility of the permit holder to schedule an inspection prior to the pipes being covered. Refer to our **Inspections handout** for more information on scheduling your inspection.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak with a plumbing inspector, you may call or come by our office.