



Borough of Doylestown Building and Zoning Department  
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## FACT SHEET #9 SEWER LATERAL REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

### **BACKGROUND**

The provisions of the Borough of Doylestown Code of Ordinance, PAUCC, and the ICC Plumbing and Building Code shall control the repair of sewer lines.

**DEFINITIONS**Your “Sanitary Sewer Line” is the lateral sewer line that connects your home to the public sewer system. Wastewater from your toilets, sinks, showers, and washing machine travels through your sanitary sewer line to the public sewer main line which carries it to the wastewater plant for treatment. The main is the responsibility of Bucks County Water and Sewer. The lateral sanitary line that runs from the main to your building is your responsibility to keep in good repair.

### **PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

Installation or relocation of a sanitary sewer requires a plumbing permit. Repair of a sanitary sewer line requires a permit but a short form Repair of a Sewer Lateral Permit may be used. Rodding or cleaning a sewer lateral does not require a permit. Visit [www.doylestownborough.net](http://www.doylestownborough.net) for more information.

### **SEWER LATERAL REPLACEMENT AND REPAIR REQUIREMENT**

Building sewers of the following approved materials may be used:

- Schedule 40 PVC
- Schedule 40 ABS DWV
- Cast Iron
- High Strength Vitrified Clay Pipe, High Density Polyethylene (SDR 26, or better)
- Other approved materials.
- Approved adapters shall be used at any change of materials.

### **Trenching and Bedding:**

Trench bottom shall be true to grade, piping must be laid on a firm, dry, compacted base of gravel, screenings or other permitted material.

### **Pipe Size and Pitch:**

For 4 inch pipe minimum pitch is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot (2%). For 6" pipe minimum pitch is  $\frac{1}{8}$ " per foot (1%). Slope greater than 1.4 inches per foot (12%) is not allowed.

### **Cleanouts**

Cleanouts must be installed, The first must be with in 5 foot of the building, and then one ever 50' (if 4 " pipe) or one every 100' if 6" pipe. Sanitary tees may be used.

**Trap/Vent**

Building lateral sanitary sewers are required to have an outside trap. The sewer lateral curb trap vent pipe must be six (6) inches above grade and have a secure vent cap or box.

**Joints:**

IPC listed materials may be used. Listed flexible coupling may be used to make the conversion from clay or cast iron to the PVC pipe. Solvent welds require purple primer.

**Bends:**

No bends greater than 45 degrees allowed, bends greater than 22.5 degrees require a clean out. Some locations may not allow use of 45 degree fittings, consider using 90 degree long sweep.

**Backfill:**

Pipe to be covered with compacted gravel or screenings to top of pipe. Backfill must be compacted in 12" layers to the top of the trench. If sidewalk or street were disturbed asphalt patch must be installed immediately. Applicant and Property Owner responsible for maintaining the patch until the permanent patch is installed. Permanent patch must be installed within 90 days.

**Notes:**

Sump pumps and floor drains are to be discharged to the exterior of the dwelling. Sump pumps and floor drains connected to the sanitary sewer are illegal and must be corrected.

**The information provided in this guide is intended only to assist residents in understanding the code requirements for sewer lateral replacement. It is not a complete recitation of the code. Property owners should consult the Doylestown Borough Code of Ordinance for answers to specific questions.**