Department of Public Works

House Sewer – Inspection and Repair

In accordance with Chapter 13.24.560 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, “The City Engineer, the Superintendent, or the Chief Engineer may inspect as often as he deems necessary, every sewage pumping plant, sewage treatment plant, industrial liquid waste pretreatment plant, house sewer, interceptor, dilution basin, neutralization basin, backwater trap or valve, or other similar appurtenances to ascertain whether such facilities are maintained and operated in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. All persons shall permit the city engineer, the superintendent or the chief engineer to have access to all such facilities at all reasonable times.”

- When is a Sewer Inspection needed?

  As part of the Public Works conditions for developmental permits, a closed circuit television (CCTV) inspection of the existing house sewer serving the developed property is usually required for the above mentioned purpose. The private "house sewer" extends beyond the property line into the public street. It is defined as part of the horizontal piping beginning 24 inches from the exterior wall of the building or structure and extending to its connection with the City sewer line, which is usually in the middle of the street and evident by sewer manholes. If the location of a City sewer main is unclear, please refer to the online Pasadena Sewer Map or request for a copy of the sewer plan and profile map with the Department of Public Works at pw-permits@cityofpasadena.net.

- Sewer Inspection Requirements

  The house sewer CCTV inspection shall include footage from the nearest private cleanout to the connection at public sewer main. The video shall clearly show the entire circular section of the pipe, with no or minimum flow during televising, and with footage continuously displayed on the monitor. The property address, date of inspection, and a continuous read-out of the camera distance from the starting point shall be constantly displayed on the video. No still picture is required. The results shall be submitted by email to pw-permits@cityofpasadena.net. A flat fee per the current General Fee Schedule is required for the review. The evaluation normally takes 3 to 5 business days. Most plumbers offer the service for sewer video inspection.

House Sewer - Inspection and Repair (Continued)

- What happens to old pipes? How are they being fixed?

The applicant shall correct any defects revealed by the inspection. Defects may include, excessive tuberculation of cast iron pipes, excessive root intrusion, offset pipe joints which can allow water infiltration, cracked pipes, corrosion or deterioration of the pipe or joint material, damaged or cracked connection to the sewer main, or other defects as determined by the City Engineer. The method of correction of the defects shall be subject to the approval of the City Engineer, and may include partial or total replacement of the house sewer, or installation of a structural or non-structural pipe liner. The applicant shall be responsible for all costs required to obtain the CCTV inspection of the existing sewer connection, and if required, to correct the defects.

- Is any permit required?

A Public Works permit is required for all sewer repairs, including the installation of a pipe liner, whether or not an excavation in the public right-of-way (parkway or street) is required for access to facilitate the operation. Below please see alternates for trenchless repair options.

A. Relining
   - Public Works permit required for record purposes.
   - Permit - processing fee only (if no excavation for access pit), and construction deposit of $500 required (refundable upon satisfactory post-inspection results)
   - Applicant shall submit pre-and post-lining televising videos to pw-permits@cityofpasadena.net. They will be reviewed by the City at a fee based on the General Fee Schedule. Top hats shall lay flush with the sewer main wall; any protrusions noted on the post-lining videos will require the Permittee to excavate and remove the protrusions under a separate permit.

B. Pipe Bursting
   - Pipe bursting may be allowed on a case by case basis only (acceptable materials - HDPE or PVC). The applicant shall submit a pre-construction video for review by the City. The procedure is not suitable for collapsed or blocked pipes.
   - Public Works permit required for record purposes.
   - Permit - permit fee equivalent to new house laterals per current General Fee Schedule, and construction deposit of $500 required (refundable less processing fee upon satisfactory post-inspection results).
   - Applicant shall call for inspection during excavation or construction so that a Public Works inspector can verify the sewer main is protected in place. The permit shall be documented with photos and written report by the inspector. The deposit can be refunded upon satisfactory inspection and permit closure.
   - If no inspection occurs during the procedure, the applicant shall submit a post-construction televising video, to be reviewed by the City. The deposit can be refunded upon satisfactory review of the video. A request for refund shall be filed by the applicant at pw-permits@cityofpasadena.net.

For detailed requirements for Public Works permits, please visit the City website at: https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-works/engineering-and-construction/engineering/.