



# Water Service Installation

## Bulletin 44

*Division of Building Safety and Inspection for 2018 International Codes*

All service pipe installed between the building and the water meter shall be installed in accordance with the current Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC).

**Inspection:** An open trench inspection and approval of the water service line from the meter or well site to the structure is required.

**IMPORTANT: DO NOT** cover the pipe until approved by a Pierce County Inspector.

**Water Meter Location:** The location and access requirements for the water meter are set by the water purveyor.

**Pipe Depth:** All service pipes leading from the building must be buried a minimum of 12" below final grade or 12" below the average local frost depth of the final grade. A blue 18ga tracer wire is required in any trench with non-metallic piping.

**Pipe Size:** Minimum water size and service pipe diameter may not be less than three-quarter inch (3/4"). Public Works Department of Pierce County does not allow the installation of the building's water service lines within their respective right-of-way. Contact Pierce County Public Works @ 253-798-7250 for more information.

**Building Shut-Off Valve:** In one/two-family dwellings and individual apartments, the installation of the shut-off valve must always be accessible. It may not be in a crawl space, ceiling or attic space, higher than five (5) feet above the finished floor elevation or behind another appliance.

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

**Approved Water Service Line Materials:** Approved materials for building supply and distribution piping include: copper and copper alloys, CPVC, CPVC-AL-CPVC, Ductile-Iron, Galvanized Steel, Malleable Iron, PE-AL-PE, PE-RT, PEX, PEX-AL-PEX, PP and Stainless Steel. PE, and PVC are approved for building supply or cold-water applications only.

### **Separation from Other Utilities:**

- **On-Site Sanitation (Septic):** Horizontal separation of 10 feet is required between water service lines and any part of an on-site sewage system including plumbing stub-out. Placement closer than 10 feet requires written approval of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.
- **Sanitary Sewer:** Horizontal separation of 10 feet is required between water service lines and any part of the sanitary building sewer. When crossing is necessary, the water service pipe must be installed 3 feet above the sewer line, measured from the invert of the water line to the crown of the sewer.

**Utilities Allowed to be in a Common Trench with Water Service:** Electrical, Gas, Telephone, Cable, Television, Private Irrigation of Water Distribution Systems. Coordinate with your local water purveyor to see the allowed separations between water lines and other utilities.