Building Sewer Installation Requirements - General

1. Obtain a plumbing permit from Building Inspection.

2. Obtain a connection permit from the Technical Resources if connection is new.

3. An inspection of materials and installation and a test of the building sewer shall be approved before covering the work.

   a. Building sewers of the following approved materials may be used and shall be installed 2 feet from the foundation wall:
      (1) Vitrified clay – 3 inches minimum.
      (2) PVC – DWV; ASTM D2665; – 3 inches minimum.
      (3) ABS – DWV: ASTM D2661 – 3 inches minimum.
      (4) Cast iron – 3 inches minimum.
      (5) Asbestos cement – 4 inches minimum.
   b. Approved adapters shall be used at any change of materials.

5. Installation.
   a. Nonmetallic sewer materials shall have a minimum cover of 12 inches.
   b. Building sewer piping shall be laid on a firm bed throughout its entire length, and any such piping in made or filled in ground shall be laid on a bed of approved materials. Approved materials are: damp or flooded sand, compacted earth, pea gravel, or ¾ inch crushed rock. Loose dirt, dust, mud, stones, and chunks of hardpan are not considered approved bedding materials. Pea gravel or crushed rock shall be used for fill in trenches dug in cobbled areas, such as found in Rancho Cordova.
   c. Trenches paralleling a building footing shall be at least as far away from the footing as they are below it.
   d. Trenches shall have a uniform minimum slope of ¼ inch per foot away from the building. If the depth of the street sewer does not permit this slope, a sewer pipe 4 inches or larger may be run at a slope of 1/8 inch per foot, when approved by the CBO.

6. Cleanouts.
   a. A readily accessible cleanout shall be installed at the upper terminal of the building drain, and a cleanout shall be installed at the junction of the building drain and the house sewer 2 feet outside the building line. When there is no upper terminal cleanout, an approved two-way cleanout may be installed at the junction of the building drain and sewer. Each cleanout shall be extended to grade. An additional building sewer cleanout shall be installed at intervals not to exceed 100 feet in straight runs and for each aggregate change of direction exceeding 135 degrees.
   b. A cleanout to grade shall be constructed within 2 feet of the property line. This property line cleanout shall be the same size as the sewer lateral to the property and shall be protected by an approved sewer box.
7. **Building Sewer Test.**
   a. Building sewers shall be tested by plugging the building sewer at its point of connection with the public sewer or private sewage disposal system and completely filling it with water to the highest point. The sewer shall be water tight to all points.
   b. A 3-pound air test may be submitted for the water test on the building sewer. There shall be no leakage during a 10-minute test period.

8. **Abandoned Septic Tanks.**
   a. Every septic tank that has been abandoned or has been discontinued otherwise from further use or to which no waste or soil pipe from a plumbing fixture is connected shall have the sewage removed there from and be completely filled with earth, sand, gravel, concrete, or other approved material.
   b. The top cover or arch over the septic tank shall be removed before filling. The filling shall not extend above the top of the vertical portions of the side walls or above the level of any outlet pipe until inspection has been called and the septic tank has been inspected. After such inspection, the septic tank shall be filled to the level of the top of the ground.
   c. When Building Inspection does not issue a plumbing permit associated with abandonment of a septic tank, a *Septic Abandonment Permit* must be obtained from:

   Environmental Management  
   10590 Armstrong Ave  
   Mather, CA  
   (916) 875-8484

   Environmental Management will make the necessary inspections.