

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: 2006 International Plumbing and Residential Code

DATE:

CODE REF: Chapter 52, Section 304.4

4/6/2009

SUBJECT: Trench less Building Sewer Replacement

Question: Can a building sewer be replaced without exposing the replacement piping for final inspection?

Answer: With today's technology a new method of replacing the building sewer, this method has come to be known as "pipe bursting" or "trench less pipe replacement systems". It should be noted that this is a system and therefore this installation method does not apply to any other type of building sewer replacement.

The problem with this method of pipe replacement does not allow the plumbing inspector to make a visual inspection of the installed piping for its entire length. This type of installation only leaves the connection between the building drain and building sewer and the connection between the building sewer and the sewer tap exposed for view.

Chapter 52 requires the piping be exposed for inspection prior to concealment of the newly installed piping. In order to permit the use of this type of installation the following procedure shall be used.

1. Camera the existing building sewer.
2. Expose both end of building sewer.
3. Replace existing piping.
4. Water test newly installed replacement piping with a combination of water and air (hydrostatic test) to a maximum of 5psi and to be witness by plumbing inspector.
5. Call for inspection by a plumbing inspector. Upon completion of the plumbing inspection the contractor should drain the newly replaced building sewer and re-camera the line and provide a video tape to the plumbing inspector. If there is any indications of the building sewer not having proper alignment (holding water) the building sewer must be replaced or repaired. A final approval will not be issued until the plumbing inspector receives the video of the newly installed building sewer.
6. The plumbing inspector should then final the permit and the plumber may pick up the "green tag" from them plumbing inspector at their office.

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