

Construction Industry Communication #06

From: Amit Ghosh, Chief Building Official
Re: Private Fire, Combined Private Fire & Potable, and Private Potable
Main/Service Installations
Date: October 27, 2025

Background: Previously, the Columbus Division of Water inspected all underground water installations, public and private. Due to a conflict with EPA and Ohio Plumbing Code regulations, the inspections related to Private Fire, Private Combined Fire & Potable, and Private Potable Water Mains/Services (hereafter referred to as Private Mains/Services) have been transferred to the City of Columbus Department of Building and Zoning Services.

Memorandum: Contractors shall install private fire, private combined fire and potable, and private potable mains/services in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Ohio Plumbing Code (OPC) & National Fire Protection Association Standard 24. Additional information that may be useful can be found on the plumbing page of the Department of Building and Zoning Services website.

Mains: Permits shall be acquired for private mains. Contractors shall reference the approved Water Service Plan (WSP) in the permit application.

Services: Permits shall be acquired for each private service. Contractors shall reference the approved WSP in the permit application.

Exception: Private potable branch services associated with new construction shall be permitted to be associated with all individual services connected to the branch for all addresses covered by a single roof.

Repairs: Permits shall be acquired for repair work associated with private mains/services. Repair work shall comply with the most recent approved WSP plan.

Appurtenance Replacement: Permits shall be acquired for appurtenance replacements, such as private fire hydrants, associated with private mains/services. Replacement appurtenances shall comply with the most recent approved WSP plan.

Excavation Depth: Due to the dangers and difficulty in verifying installation compliance when excavation depth exceeds 6 feet below grade level, continuous inspections will have to be performed by an approved special inspector. Upon completion of backfilling, the special inspections report shall be provided to the inspector upon scheduling for the hydrostatic test and flush.

Optional: If a contractor wishes to include the underground and backfill as part of the Statement of Special Inspections for a project, the contractor can elect to hire an approved special inspector/inspection agency to perform continuous inspections. Upon completion of backfilling, the special inspections report shall be provided to the inspector upon scheduling for the hydrostatic test and flush.

An approved special inspector from the “Special Inspection Testing Agencies and Inspectors” list must be designated by the permit applicant to perform the required special inspections of Private Water Mains/Services.

Upon receipt of an approved plan review and an approved special inspector, a City of Columbus Private Water Permit is required to be obtained by the permit holder per CBC 4113.

- Fees will apply as identified within the BZS Fee Schedule.

Upon completion of all work identified within the approved construction documents, a special inspection will be required by the approved special inspector.

- A City of Columbus Private Water Main/Service Inspection Form will be required to be prepared by the approved special inspection entity verifying the installation to be in accordance with the approved construction drawings.

Upon completion of the above, the Private Water Inspection Form (Page 3) shall be sent to plumbinginfo@columbus.gov for approval.

Private Water Inspection Form

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17 of the Ohio Building Code and Construction Industry Communication #06, the undersigned special inspector certifies the following list:

- Work was completed in conformance with the approved documents.
- All materials used are identified and listed for the application.
- All materials are installed per the manufacturer's specifications and requirements.
- Continuous inspections were performed for verification of restraint methods (when applicable), burial depth and backfill.
- The required Private Water permit has been obtained by a registered plumbing contractor, water contractor, or sewer/water contractor with the City of Columbus.

Customer Name: _____

Job Site Address: _____

Date of Inspection: _____

Plan Approval Number: _____

Private Water Permit Number: _____

Special Inspector: _____

Company Phone Number: _____

PE Certification Number: _____

Signature of Special Inspector: _____