

TOWN OF BETHELEHEM - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
REQUIREMENTS FOR SANITARY SEWER CONNECTIONS

The following requirements paraphrase those stated in Local Law No. 4 of 2009 (Sewer Ordinance) of the Town of Bethlehem, which regulates the use of public and private sewers and drains within the Bethlehem Sewer District and its extensions:

USE OF PUBLIC SEWERS REQUIRED

The Owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation or other purposes situated within the District and abutting on any street, alley or right of way in which there is now located or may in the future be located a public sanitary sewer or the District, is required in his expense to install suitable plumbing facilities therein and to connect such facilities directly to the proper public sewer in accordance with the provisions of Local Law No. 4 of 2009. Under normal circumstances such connection shall be made within 90 days after the date of official notice to do so, however, sufficient additional time may be allowed by the Commissioner of Public Works.

PERMITS AND FEES

No person shall uncover, make any connections with or opening into, use, alter, or disturb any public sewer or appurtenances thereof without first obtaining a written permit from the District. There shall be three classes of building sewer permits as follows:

1. Residential
2. Commercial
3. Industrial

Please see the [TownofBethlehem.org](http://TownofBethlehem.org) for the current fees for connections.

The property owner or his agent shall make application to the District to establish a sewer connection using the appropriate permit form furnished by the District and shall provide all information as required by the permit and Local Law No. 4 of 2009.

INSURANCE

A 5,000.00 (five thousand) dollar permit bond indemnifying the **Town of Bethlehem and/or the Town of Bethlehem Sewer District is required.**

Any Contractor or other party performing work in connection with the construction of a sewer lateral connection must be approved by the Town and have on file with the Town an Owner's and Contractor's protective liability insurance policy, in the name of the **Town of Bethlehem and/or the Town of Bethlehem Sewer District**, in the following amounts:

**Bodily injury - \$2,000,000.00 (two million) each accident**

**Property damage - \$500,000.00 (five hundred) each accident**

before a permit will be issued.

GENERAL PROCEDURE  
PERMITS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONNECTIONS

A separate and independent sewer lateral and connection shall be provided for every building with certain rare exceptions more fully described in Local Law No. 1. A sewer lateral pipe has been constructed from the main street sewer to the owner's property line and plugged, at which point the property owner will make his connection. In certain instances where a sewer lateral connection has not been provided at the property line, the property owner will be required to construct at his expense such a connection from the main street sewer to the property line, **AFTER OBTAINING THE NECESSARY PERMIT**. This permit is for work outside of the building in order to connect to the public sewers. If the plumbing inside the building must be changed or re-routed, a separate building permit must be obtained from the Town of Bethlehem Building Department (439-4955 Ext. 1112). These permits are for the protection of the property owner to insure that all the construction work is done correctly and with approved materials. In all cases it will be the property owner's responsibility and expense to construct the sewer lateral from its point of connection at the property line to a proper point of connection at the building with the building plumbing facilities. It shall be noted that the sewer lateral from the main street sewer to building is the owner's responsibility for maintenance, cleaning and/or repairs.

The applicant for the building sewer permit shall notify the Bethlehem Sewer District when the sewer lateral is ready for inspection and connection to the public sewer. The connection shall be made under the supervision of the Bethlehem Sewer District representative. When trenches are opened for the laying of sewer laterals and after the laying of the sewer lateral is completed, but prior to refilling the trench, the Contractor performing the work shall notify the Bethlehem Sewer District so that the pipe installation can be inspected and approval given to refill the trench. Sewer trenches refilled prior to inspection will have to be reopened for inspection, by and at the expense of the Contractor may be subject to a penalty as per Local Law No. 4 of 2009. Partial inspection will be charged an additional fee.

Specifications

Sewer laterals shall be constructed of approved pipe materials, of the size and at a slope as provided in Local Law No. 4 of 2009 or as may be approved by the Commissioner of Public Works. (Every connection requires a permit)

Approved Pipe and Fittings

All gravity sanitary sewer laterals shall be either:

- a) ABS composite sewer pipe per ASTM D-2680 or latest revision. Each end shall be primed with methyl ethyl ketone and be solvent cement welded. Immediately after making joint, rotate pipe 1/4 turn to assure bond. All laterals shall be 6 inches in diameter, SDR 23.5, meeting ASTM D-2751.
- b) PVC sewer pipe shall meet ASTM D-3034 or latest revision for SDR 26. All fittings shall be in full compliance with ASTM 3034 and other appropriate specifications. Joints in this pipe shall consist of an integral bell with a composite rubber gasket conforming to ASTM D-3212 and ASTM F-477.
- c) Ductile iron pipe class 50 meeting AWWA C-151 or latest revision. It shall be double cement lined and paint seal coated.

- d) Cast iron pipe class 22 per ASTM A-74, USAS A21.6, A21.8 or latest revision.

When a small diameter low pressure PVC force main (grinder pump) is required by the Town, all pipe shall be SDR 21 and conform to ASTM D-2241. All line valves shall be SCH 80 and all fittings shall be SCH 40. Cleanouts must be incorporated into the pipe layouts. A locator wire is required to enable locating buried piping. This wire should be #12 AWG single conductor stranded copper w/TW 600-volt insulation. Curb boxes are to be installed on the right of way line.

All materials and construction methods shall comply with details and manufacturing set forth by N.Y.S.D.E.C., N.Y.S. Dept. of Health, Albany County Health Department and the Great Lakes-Upper Mississippi River Board of State sanitary Engineers (1978 edition).

All gravity sanitary sewer laterals shall be minimum of 4 inches in diameter, although a 6" diameter lateral is recommended. A 4" diameter lateral shall have a minimum slope of 2% and a 6" diameter lateral shall have a minimum slope of 1%.

<u>DIAMETER</u>	<u>MINIMUM SLOPE</u>
4"	1/4" per foot
5"	3/16" per foot
6"	1/8" per foot

Whenever possible the building sewer lateral shall be brought to the building at an elevation below the basement floor. Any openings, such as cleanout hand-holes in traps, in house drains, cellar drains, etc., shall not be lower than the level of the finished basement floor. Whenever a sewer lateral is to be laid through a foundation wall, it must be placed in a cast iron or ductile iron sleeve or the sewer lateral itself must be cast iron or ductile iron.

On the exterior, no building sewer shall be laid parallel to and within **3 feet** of any bearing wall, which might thereby be weakened. The depth shall be sufficient to afford protection from frost. The sewer lateral shall be made a uniform grade and in straight alignment insofar as possible. Changes in direction shall be made only with properly curved pipe and fittings. Cleanouts shall be installed in each sewer lateral 3' to 5' from the foundation wall. If the sewer lateral is over 100' in length, other cleanouts shall be installed every 100'.

**Sanitary sewer lateral location relating to water main:**

a.) Horizontal separation - whenever possible, sewer laterals should be laid at least 10 feet horizontally (edge to edge) from any existing or proposed water main. Should local conditions prevent this separation, a sewer lateral may be laid closer if;

1. It is in a separate trench.
2. It is laid in the same trench as the water main and located on a bench of undisturbed earth. In either case, the elevation of the crown of the sewer is at least 18 inches below the bottom of the water main.

b.) Vertical separation - whenever sewers must cross a water main the sewer shall be laid at such an elevation that the outside of the sewer pipe is at least 18 inches from the outside of the water main. One full length of sewer pipe should be laid over the water main.

All sewer laterals shall be installed in a dry trench. Under **NO** circumstances shall ground water be allowed to enter the sanitary sewer system. When construction is not in progress, the open end of the pipe will be closed by a watertight plug or cap.

All pipe bedding, haunching and backfill materials must provide an acceptable support and cushion for the pipe, as ordered by the Town inspector. All excavations must be properly refilled, tamped at intervals and the original type of surface be replaced. Streets, sidewalks, parkways and other public property disturbed in the course of work shall be restored in a manner satisfactory to the Bethlehem Sewer District or other authority having jurisdiction.

All pipe bedding, haunch, initial backfill and final backfill must be suitable for proper compaction. The layer thickness used during backfilling shall not exceed the capability of the compaction equipment. The Town inspector's approval or rejection of the methods or compaction devices shall be final.

Appropriate traffic control devices and personnel shall be provided in accordance with federal, state or local regulations to regulate, warn and guide traffic through the work site.

A building trap with two, (2) brass cleanout plugs shall be located inside the building, as close to the exterior wall as possible, and on the public sewer side of all building connections. Every building drain shall be provided with a three (3) inch minimum diameter fresh air inlet pipe connected to the building drain immediately upstream from the trap and shall be extended to the exterior of the building, terminating in an open end, protected by a permanently affixed, perforated metal plate.

Upon completion of the sewer lateral connection, septic tanks, cesspools and similar private disposal facilities shall be cleaned of sludge and liquid, abandoned and filled with suitable material.

#### Prohibited Discharges

Local Law No. 4 of 2009 provides that no person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm sewer, surface water, ground water, roof runoff, subsurface discharge, cooling water or unpolluted industrial process water to any sanitary sewer. The above illegal discharges shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as storm sewers or to a natural outlet approved by the Commissioner of Public Works. Waters or wastes containing certain other contaminants, which are generally hazardous or injurious to the sewers or sewage treatment facilities, are also excluded by Local Law No. 4 and a complete description of such items is contained in Local Law No. 4.

#### How to Plan Your Sewer Connection

The attached sheets show four alternative situations, one of which will describe the situation that confronts most homeowners. It is intended to be a guide in planning your sewer connection based upon your knowledge of your interior plumbing arrangement, septic tank location and public sewer lateral connection location. Please contact a local plumber or plumbing contractor to help assist you in connecting to the public sewer. (Any contractor doing sewer lateral connections must be approved by the Bethlehem Sewer District. See page 1 Insurance).