

City of Rio Dell Sewer Testing Requirement Procedures

In connection with the City of Rio Dell Sewer Ordinance, excessive infiltration testing, sewer lateral testing, and lateral testing upon sale shall be performed as follows:

1. The test procedure shall be performed as follows:
 - A. Each lateral is to have a clean-out, as located in the City right of way, on private property adjacent to the City right of way, or on a public utility easement.
 - B. If one does not exist, a clean-out shall be installed prior to performing any testing.
 1. Installation of the clean-out, if necessary, **shall require a plumbing permit.**
 2. Clean-out shall be run to grade and covered by a valve box and lid.
 3. A clean-out located adjacent to the building (within 30") will be a help in the test and repair of the lateral and is required by the Uniform Plumbing Code for any new construction.
 - C. The Test must be witnessed by City Staff.
 - D. All arrangements and set up should be completed by the time the City Staff arrives to witness the test.
2. Method of Testing:
 - A. Water Exfiltration Test
 1. The owner's contractor shall furnish all materials and equipment at owner's expense, except the calibrated bucket.
 2. The contractor shall plug the lateral and riser at the City clean-out and surcharge the line with water to a point equal to the foundation grade (floor joist level) or slab floor.
 3. The minimum height of the water level shall be two (2) feet above the lateral invert at the City Clean-out.
 - a. If there is any fixture inside the structure lower than the testing water level, the contractor will have to either plug the fixture or the lateral at the building.
 - b. An approved backwater valve must be installed if there are any plumbing fixtures whose level is below the City clean-out. A plumbing permit is required for this work.
 4. The lateral shall be surcharged for thirty (30) minutes and the amount of water lost shall be measured.
 5. The lateral shall be considered acceptable if the amount of water lost is less than four (4) gallons for a four (4") inch lateral.
 6. On an individual basis the amount of allowable water loss may be adjusted by the City Engineer for a six (6") inch diameter lateral or unusually long lateral lengths.
 - B. Air Testing

1. Air testing shall be conducted in accordance to section 306-1.4.4 of the Standard Specifications for the Public Works Construction, American Public Works Association, latest addition.
2. The air test shall consist of plugging each end of the service lateral and applying a pressure of three and one half pounds per square inch (3.5 psi) to the section under test.
3. The line shall be allowed a maximum loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ psi in five (5) minutes.
4. If the loss exceeds $\frac{1}{2}$ psi, the test may be attempted one additional time. A second loss of pressure constitutes a failure of the line.

For background information, see Section 13.10.467 of the City of Rio Dell Sewer Ordinance