ATTENTION PLUMBERS AND CONTRACTORS:

The Sewer Connection Process in Philadelphia is Changing

The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) is issuing new regulations (Sewer Connection Regulations) and a companion manual (Sewer Connection and Repair Manual) governing lateral connections to the public sewer.

Why change the process? Clearer expectations and proper sewer connection procedures help reduce the occurrence of cave-ins, other repairs, and premature replacement.

What is changing?
The significant changes include:

1. A sewer connection permit and fee will be required for a new connection to the public sewer and repairs to an existing lateral. Please note this is in addition to L+I’s plumbing permit and fee.
2. Core drilling will be required.
3. The plumber must schedule a PWD inspection of the lateral connection before backfilling. Please note that L+I will still inspect curb traps and main house drains.
4. Proper backfilling will be enforced.

What is the cost of the sewer connection permit?
The basic connection fee starts at $265 and will increase based on the size of the connection. This is in addition to L+I’s plumbing permit fee.

When will PWD start enforcing the new regulations?
PWD will start enforcing the new regulations on October 1, 2017. We have inspectors on the street now educating plumbers and contractors about the new standards and process.

To get a sewer connection permit:

- For a new connection, start by contacting PWD’s Water Transport Records Unit at 215.685.6271 or email wtr@phila.gov for preliminary review.
- For repairs, apply at the Water Desk at the Municipal Services Building at 1401 JFK Boulevard.

To see the Regulations & Manual:
The Regulations and Manual are available online and by phone.
Visit www.phila.gov/water/regulations or call 215.685.6271 to request a copy.

Questions? Call PWD’s Water Transport Records Unit at 215.685.6271 or email wtr@phila.gov.