

## **SPOKANE COUNTY SEWER CONNECTION REQUIREMENTS & TIPS**

Here are some things to consider when having your property connected to the sewer system. This is not an all-inclusive guide and your situation may require other considerations that are not covered by this guide. Please refer to our “Side Sewer Installation Handbook” found on the Spokane County Website under <https://www.spokanecounty.org/978/Sewer-Planning-Design>.

- Spokane County allows the construction of side sewers to only be performed by a State of Washington licensed and bonded contractor or by the owner of the property. If a homeowner wants to perform the installation, they must first call (509) 477-3604 to schedule a consultation with a Wastewater System Division Inspector.
- All installations require a sewer connection permit issued by the Spokane County. Other permits, such as interior plumbing alterations and right-of-way permits, may be required. All necessary permits must be obtained **PRIOR** to commencement of any part of the installation. The property owner may obtain the permit(s), but we recommend that the contractor performing the work take out the permit. If the property owner is going to obtain the permit(s), the contractor’s name and registration number must be provided. If you have questions regarding the permit process, please contact one of our Customer Service Representatives at (509) 477-3604.

### **HIRING A SIDE SEWER CONTRACTOR**

We suggest that you obtain at least three (3) bids. Listed below are some of the basic items that you should discuss with contractors preparing a bid for you. There may be other items or situations not covered by this guide.

- When comparing contractor bids in order to select the low bidder, make sure all bids were for the same services, materials and items of work.
- Is the bid for estimated or for actual costs? What is the cost of unforeseen work?
- What method of construction will be used; open trench, bored, or a combination of both?
- Make sure the bid is for connecting **“all necessary building drains.”**
- Check to see if the contractor has included **“all necessary permits”** in his bid.
- Does the bid include pumping and abandoning the septic tank as per Spokane County Health District regulations?
- Does the bid stipulate that all work shall meet Spokane County standards?
- Ask the contractor if the “stub” is deep enough to make all necessary connections by gravity? If not, does the bid include **ALL** costs for installation and connection via a pump, including the electrical permit?

- Does your property already have a dry side sewer? Is it connected to the main in the street? Is it deep enough to serve your building by gravity?
- Is the contractor going to be responsible for replacing and/or repairing any sprinkler systems that he may damage during the course of work? If so, to what extent?
- How, when, and to what extent will the contractor restore areas disturbed or damaged during the course of the work? Will the contractor cut, roll, and replace the existing sod or install new sod?
- Does the contractor require a down payment or deposit? Is it non-refundable?
- Does the contractor provide a warranty on the work? For how long?
- Make sure all items/services are covered in a written contract, including the warranty period.
- Can you break your contract for any reason?
- Can the contractor provide you with references of previous sewer installations?
- All work, whether performed by a licensed contractor or by the property owner, must be in compliance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries' safety requirements.

Please contact a Spokane County Customer Service Representative at (509) 477-3604 if you have any questions about hiring a contractor to install your sanitary sewer connection.