

Frequently Asked Questions FAQ's for Sewer Lateral (SL) Permits

1. What is a Sewer Lateral (SL) Permit?

Answer: SL Permit allows a contractor with the appropriate contractor's license (see question 3 below) to install a sewer lateral on private property (upper lateral) or in the City Right-Of-Way (lower lateral). Applicant must request for inspections at least 48 hours in advance of scheduled work. City Inspector will inspect the pipe material, connections, and requests compaction test results.

2. How much does a Sewer Lateral (SL) permit cost?

Answer: Rates are shown in "How Fees Are Calculated For Sewer Lateral (SL) Permit" in Page 4.

3. Who can apply for a Sewer Lateral (SL) permit?

Answer: Please note that General Building Contractor license "B" is **no longer allowed** for obtaining private sewer lateral permits. In coordination with Consent Decree Regional Standards, Page 16 (available upon request), the following contractor licenses are allowed to perform sewer infrastructure work:

Scope of Work	Contractor License Classifications
Private Property	A, C-34, C-36, C-42
Private Property & City Right-of-Way	A, C-34, C-42

In addition, contractor must also have a current valid Oakland Business License. If a homeowner/property owner wants to be a permit runner for the contractor, a wet-signed letter on company letterhead from the contractor is required to authorize and allow the homeowner to obtain the permit under the contractor's license.

4. If I don't need the Sewer Lateral (SL) Permit(s), can I request a refund?

Answer: A refund request form must be reviewed by the City inspector(s) and approved by the supervisor. Refund requests are available at the City Cashier, second floor of 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza.

5. How do I request inspections for Sewer Lateral (SL) Permits?

Answer: Please request for inspections *two business days prior* to start of work or else subject to fine. To schedule an inspection, please see below:



SL/SLX permits	https://citygovapp.com/app/opwirprod.htm
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6. How can I contact USA (Underground Service Alert)?

Answer: USA is Underground Service Alert (USA) and 811 is the phone number to call before digging to protect yourself and others from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines. USA numbers are required in SL permit applications.



7. I want to see the existing utilities within my site area, where can I access this information?

Answer: Please visit <http://oakbec.s3.amazonaws.com/MapLanding/maps/DEC.html> and type in your site address to view existing utilities. Click on the  icon. Scroll down and click on “sewer sheets” to see existing utilities. You may also click on the  Parcels icon to see location of your parcel in relation to existing utilities. Please note that the sewer sheets are for *reference* only, and deviations may exist from the *actual* utility location.

8. What is Private Sewer Lateral Compliance?

Answer: Private Sewer Lateral Compliance refers to complying with the Regional PSL Ordinance which requires the property owner to obtain a Compliance Certificate from East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) when changing water meter size or performing building remodel projects in excess of \$100,000. EBMUD certifies that the sewer laterals are leak-free for both laterals that have been replaced or not replaced.

For remodel projects in excess of \$100,000, an EBMUD Compliance Certificate must be submitted to the City of Oakland’s Planning & Building Department prior to final building permit sign-off. Additionally, any construction work on the sewer lateral, including constructing an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), requires a City of Oakland Sewer Lateral (SL) permit.

More information regarding the Regional PSL Ordinance can be found here: <https://www.eastbaypsl.com/>

9. How do I know if my property has an EBMUD Compliance Certificate and how long it is good for?

Answer: Please visit <https://www.eastbaypsl.com/pslcust/parcel/search> and type in your address. If the address has a EBMUD Compliance Certificate, you may download it here to view its expiration date. If no certificate is shown, applicant must follow steps as listed on this page to obtain an EBMUD Compliance Certificate

How Fees Are Calculated For Sewer Lateral (SL) Permit

The fees for Sewer Lateral (SL) Permits are calculated based upon the approved Oakland Master Fee Schedule. The tables below show fees based on the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Master Fee Schedule effective February 19, 2023.

SEWER LATERAL PERMIT

No.	Description	Amount	
1	Sewer Repair, Extension or Replacement including tap inspection		
	a. Within Private Property (Includes 2 inspections)	444.35	2 Inspections
	b. Within Private Property and Sidewalks/Roadway (Includes 3 inspections)	635.44	3 Inspections
	c. Additional Inspections During Normal Hours	233.39	Inspections
	d. Additional Inspections Not During Normal Hours	338.66	Inspection
2	Sewers, New Building Connection including tap inspection	1,376.06	Inspection
3	Sewer Abandonment (Alameda County Health department provides permits for Septic Tank Abandonment)	345.06	Inspection
4	Sewer, Common Private		
	a. During Normal Working Hours	804.98	Parcel
	b. Not During Normal Operating Hours	1,283.95	Parcel

See Current City of Oakland Master Fee Schedule L-8

ADMINISTRATION ** Non-Refundable per Master Fee Schedule added to all permits

1	Application Fee	76.00	Each Permit
2	Record Management and Technology Enhancement Fee	14.75%	Permit Total