

CITY OF McMinnville

Building Division

231 NE 5th Street, McMinnville, OR 97128
Office: 503) 434-7314 FAX: 503) 474-4955
24-Hour Inspection Request Line: 503) 434-7542

IRRIGATION SYSTEM PERMIT PROCEDURES

Many homeowners are installing irrigation systems. A plumbing permit is required at the time the ditches are being dug and the pipe installed. The permit is good for six months from the date of issuance.

The following is a list of procedures for installation of an irrigation system with the City's Building Division:

1. A plumbing permit is required to install an irrigation system and must be obtained from this office prior to installation.
2. Inspections are required for your system. The completed installation must be inspected in an open trench from the connection from the existing water service piping up to the backflow device. The appropriate material to be used up to the backflow device is ASTM 1785 Schedule 40 PVC installed to a depth of 24". We do not regulate the type of piping material or depth of piping after it leaves the backflow device as this is considered nonpotable water.
3. Backflow devices must be tested prior to use of the system and must be tested by a certified tester. They must also be retested on an annual basis. Attached is a list of certified testers in this area. The original test report must be submitted to our office. Your permit will not be finalled until this report is submitted. We in turn make a copy for our records and send the original over to McMinnville Water and Light for their records and future follow-up of annual testing.

Ideally, this report should be on the job site at the time we do our inspection.

4. Occasionally the question arises as to whether it is acceptable to place lawn irrigation system valve boxes in the public right-of-way (the area generally between the sidewalk and curb). While it is acceptable to place them in the area between the sidewalk and curb, it is not acceptable to place them in the sidewalk. The very best placement of this equipment is on the private property side rather than in the public right-of-way if at all possible. This will lessen the chances of them being disturbed during future utility work.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (503) 434-7314.