Sewer Permit and Inspection Requirements

Intended for residential and commercial private sewer lines and laterals, that gravity feed or use a private pumped system to feed into an AWA sewer main.

Sewer (wastewater) inspections are made by the Amador Water Agency (AWA) and by Amador County. This document describes AWA's requirements. The applicant should contact the Amador County Building Department at (209) 223-6422 for their requirements.

PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE AWA APPLICATIONS, STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONNECTING TO AN AWA WASTEWATER SYSTEM, AT:

https://amadorwater.org/connection-installation/

1. New Wastewater Permit Application
2. AWA Standard Design and Construction Specifications for Wastewater Systems
3. AWA Installation & Materials Specifications for STEF Systems
   (Septic Tank Effluent – Gravity Flow Systems)
4. AWA Installations & Materials Specifications for STEP Systems
   (Septic Tank Effluent - Pumped Systems)

APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is the applicant's responsibility to apply for and obtain plan approval and a sewer permit from AWA directly, prior to starting construction. Sewer applications should include a signed application form, building and plumbing plans, and appropriate application and connection fees.
2. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain permits and schedule required inspections from both AWA and the Amador County Building Department.
3. The contractor performing the work must be on the job site when the inspection(s) occur. Work that cannot be visually inspected will not be accepted.
4. Applicant must call Underground Service Alert (USA) at (800) 642-2444, or 811, at least two (2) full business days prior to any inspection.

INSPECTIONS

AWA requires two (2) inspections at a minimum. Tank or vault installations will require additional inspections and testing, as required.

First Inspection: At the time of the sewer installation from the main line to the property line; or after the installation of the clean-out, but before backfill.

Second Inspection: After final grading but before concrete, pavement or landscape placement.

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APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

An AWA application fee based upon the type of service desired is required for each unit, connection, tenant space or parcel when the applicant applies for a new, modified, or replaced sewer service, tank or permit. The application fee intends to cover the cost of the initial application review, up to two (2) plan reviews and two (2) on site field inspections. Additional administrative review, plan reviews or inspections will be charged on a time and materials basis per AWA Water Code Miscellaneous Fees UN-6.

LOCATING UNDERGROUND FACILITIES AND UTILITIES

When the applicant calls USA, they request member companies and agencies to mark the location of their facilities. An AWA representative will locate underground AWA wastewater and water facilities (as appropriate) with surface markings to show the approximate location of these underground facilities based upon available records. AWA will exercise due care to make this information as complete and accurate as possible; however, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. The individuals responsible for excavating or working near underground facilities shall take all necessary precautions to protect AWA property, regardless of the information furnished. Excavation may only begin once all notified utility members have positively responded to the request.

DAMAGE TO AWA FACILITIES

If the applicant or his/her delegate damages AWA facilities, the applicant is responsible for the cost of the repairs.

BILLING

Payment of the application fee is required with the wastewater permit application. Work should not commence until payment of the application fee, or time and materials deposit (if required), are provided to AWA and after AWA issues plan approval. If a time and materials deposit is provided, the applicant will receive monthly invoices for actual work performed. If the residence or business becomes occupied without an approved final inspection, AWA will notify the property owner in writing that AWA will not assume responsibility for sewer systems not finished.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE

AWA will only be responsible for line repair, operation or maintenance from the property line to the sewer main, unless otherwise specified in AWA records.

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GENERAL TECHNICAL PROVISIONS

SAFETY

Safety on the project is the responsibility of the contractor. All safety requirements of CAL-OSHA and other local agencies must be observed. Trenching and shoring systems must be of prime concern. Any trench over five-feet (5') deep will require OSHA approved shoring, as per Construction Safety Codes of CAL-OSHA, Section 1540.

GRADE

Residential gravity wastewater systems shall run in practical alignment and at a uniform slope of not less than one-fourth inch (1/4") per foot toward the point of disposal.

CONSTRUCTION

1. Applicant and contractor shall review and follow all technical details of the applicable Standards and Specifications listed above.
2. A two-way sewer cleanout shall be installed a maximum of five feet (5') from the building.
3. AWA wastewater or construction crews will perform all taps to the wastewater main, unless the applicant receives approval for a System Extension Agreement for construction on AWA mainlines and to utilize their own Class A contractor. See AWA's Developer's Packet, available at the same website listed above, for additional information and requirements regarding system extensions.
4. Construction of facilities inside the property line shall conform to applicable AWA Standards, AWA Specifications, AWA Wastewater Code, the uniform plumbing code and Amador County Building Department requirements, as appropriate.
5. Each property owner will be required to provide and maintain a backflow prevention device on the building sewer line, if any floor of the structure is at or below the tank riser rim elevation, if the building is below any part of a gravity sewer system, on all pressurized systems, and as directed by the AWA Engineer.
6. All cleanouts shall be constructed with standard fittings and have a screw cap located at or just below the final grade or paving surface. The frame and cover of all cleanouts shall be adjusted to match finish grade. Cleanouts shall have water proof frames and covers.