

Summary- Safety Best Practice : 1.5 m Extension of Sewer Laterals

The 2012 **Ontario Building Code (OBC)** defines a sewer lateral extension as follows:
Division A – 1.4.1.2. Defined Terms

Sewer lateral extension means the portion of a storm building sewer or sanitary building sewer that extends from the public sewer up to 1.5m into the property.

The OBC also states the following:

Division B – 7.3.6.1. Tests and Inspection of Drainage or Venting Systems

(6) A sewer lateral extension need not be tested and inspected if the sewer lateral extension was constructed, tested and inspected at the time of the installation of the public sewer.

The main purpose of extending the laterals 1.5m into the property is **Worker Safety**. The unstable and previously disturbed ground at the lot line is subject to cave-ins, placing anyone working in the trench in danger. Although not as high a priority as the aforementioned threat to life, it is also advantageous to extend the sewer laterals to prevent costly **Infrastructure Damage** to other services located right at the property line (gas, hydro, cable, etc.). Furthermore, it can give **Inspectors** a level of comfort knowing they are not asking someone to go into a possible unsafe trench condition to perform the required tests.

By definition, the sewer lateral extension may extend up to 1.5m into the property by the Sewer and Watermain contractor and are to be inspected and tested at that time in conjunction with the public sewer. As per sentence 7.3.6.1.(6), there is no need for a municipality to issue permits or conduct tests for the sewer lateral extensions during construction on the property.

Currently, many municipalities have adopted the “Best Practice – 1.5m Extension of Sewer Laterals”. Hopefully all Ontario Municipalities will adopt this common sense approach to **Safety** and **Infrastructure Damage Prevention** by implementing the necessary amendments to their **Engineering Standard** DWGs for residential Storm & Sanitary sewer connections.

Please contact the OCDCA for the **Industry Wide** support package, and view our 6 minute video at the following link direct:

<http://ocdca.ca/extsewerlats.html> , or through our website at www.ocdca.ca under Industry Best Practices. Thank you for your Commitment To Progress & Safety!

1.5m Extension of Laterals Safety Best Practice: Regional Update

GTA

Halton

All Municipalities within the Region provide the Extension in their primary Standard DWGs.

Peel

All Municipalities within the Region provide the Extension in their primary Standard DWGs.

Durham

All Municipalities within the Region provide the Extension in their primary Standard DWGs.

York Region

In Vaughan, King, Newmarket, Aurora and East Gwillimbury; sewer lateral extensions are a requirement for new subdivisions, 5 of 9 municipalities have revised their Standard Drawings, Richmond Hill is in the process of strongly considering adopting the Safety practice, and revising their DWGs for new sub-divisions.

Currently, in Richmond Hill, Markham, Whitchurch-Stouffville and Georgina, the extension of sewer laterals is permitted and recommended but the developer/owner has the option to stop at the lot line if it is not practical to extend the laterals.

Although the extension of sewer laterals is not formally required in these 4 municipalities, the inspectors in these municipalities informed us that it is common practice to extend them, which is encouraging, yet it is time the Region Standardizes the Best Practice!

Simcoe County

In Barrie and Wasaga Beach sewer laterals extensions are a requirement for new subdivisions.

Essa, Collingwood, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Springwater, Orillia and New Tecumseth: These municipalities are all in the process of updating their standards and their standard drawings. They currently permit and recommend sewer lateral extensions.

Innisfil is being focused on, since plenty of construction is currently taking place in the area, and we are hoping for their cooperation in upcoming meetings.

South Central Ontario

In Guelph Eramosa sewer laterals extensions are a requirement for new subdivisions. The City of Guelph has recently agreed to make the extension of sewer laterals a requirement. They will be amending their standards and their standard drawings soon. Cambridge, Kitchener, Brantford and North Dumfries have yet to revise their Standard DWGs .

The "Best Practice" has been well received by most municipalities that have been approached in this region, and now that the City of Guelph has come in line requiring lateral extensions, we believe the other municipalities in the area will come on board and revise their Standard Drawings.

The OCDCA encourages all Municipalities to be committed to progress and the Standardization of our Safety Best Practice!