

Private Contractor Inspection Information

HOW DO I FIND SOMEONE TO INSPECT MY SIDE SEWER?

To find an inspection company, search the Internet or local yellow pages for “drain cleaners” or “sewer contractors” and call to inquire about video inspection services. Homeowners should ask for a Television Inspection that meets the City of Tacoma’s 2016 Side Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Availability Manual **section 3.3** available on Tacomapermits.org under **Resource Library - SANITARY SEWER & STORMWATER LIBRARY**.

HOW MUCH CAN I EXPECT AN INSPECTION TO COST?

The cost of an inspection can vary depending on the length of the side sewer and how easy or difficult it is to access the side sewer. An average side sewer inspection costs \$200 to \$400. Costs may vary greatly from one company to the next. The Better Business Bureau is also a good resource for finding reputable companies: 253-830-2924. Since companies offer a wide range of prices, it’s a good idea to get at least three written bids before choosing a company.

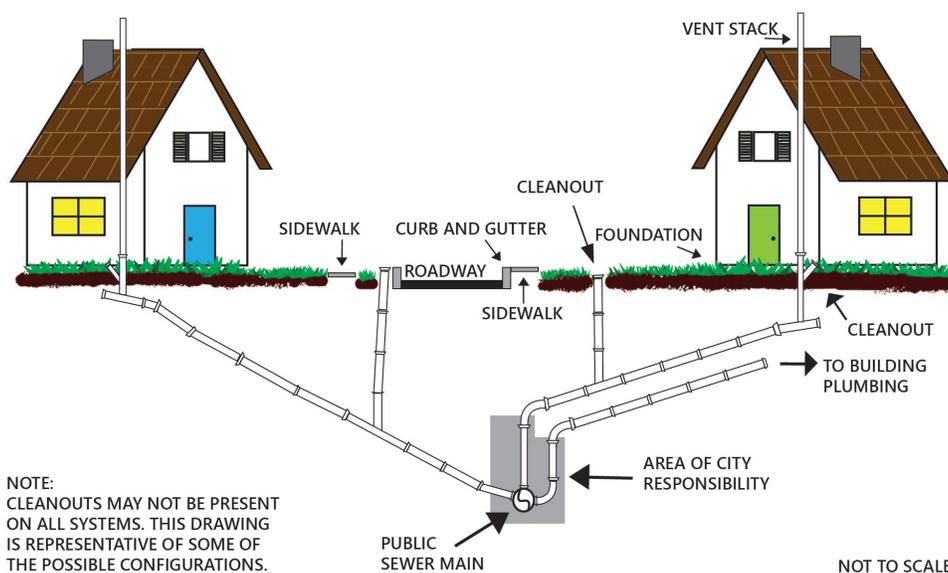
WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM AN INSPECTION?

An inspector will insert a video camera into the side sewer through a cleanout either outside or inside the building. If no cleanout is available, the inspector may need to install a cleanout or remove and replace a toilet to access wastewater plumbing. In some cases, plumbing vents on a roof can be used for video camera access. If you would like to receive a video recording of the inspection, ask about the inspector’s equipment capability prior to selecting a company.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF REPAIRS SHOULD BE MADE?

The inspector should be able to point out defects to you on the video as they are performing the inspection and provide you with recommendations on whether repairs or replacements may be needed. Although many side sewer inspection companies may also offer repair services and may provide you a quote, it is also a good idea to get a few more written bids before choosing a repair company. If you’re unsure about whether the repairs being recommended are necessary, you may also want to share the video inspection with another inspection company to receive a second opinion before agreeing to costly repairs. To read about the City of Tacoma’s recommendations regarding specific side sewer problems and repairs please refer to the **Side Sewer Condition Assessment & Repair Manual**. For a copy, go to <http://www.cityoftacoma.org/sidesewer> or call Site Development at 253-591-5760.

CITY OF TACOMA SIDE SEWER AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Note: This Tip Sheet does not substitute for codes and regulations.

The applicant is responsible for compliance with all codes and regulations, whether or not described in this document.

More information: City of Tacoma, Planning and Development Services | www.tacomapermits.org (253) 591-5030

To request this information in an alternative format or a reasonable accommodation, please call 253-591-5030 (voice).

TTY or STS users please dial 711 to connect to Washington Relay Services.