Department of Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

eCLIPSE
Electronic Commercial Licensing, Inspection, and Permit Services Enterprise

Plumbing, Electrical & Fire Suppression Rough-in Work Standard

This information bulletin summarizes common requirements for installing concealed piping & fittings, electrical cables, and fire system communication cables that will ultimately be concealed behind walls, ceilings, flooring or below ground.

All work must comply with the conditions of the approved permit. Significant deviations impact the conditions of approval and must be resubmitted for review through an amended permit process.

Section A-401 of the Administrative Code authorizes the Department to inspect the construction associated with the Rough-In Permit. If entry is refused, the Department will seek an administrative search warrant. The Rough-In Permit is subject to audit by the Department.

Application for a Rough-in Permit

The following work is allowed under a Rough-In Permit:

- Installation of water supply piping
- Installation of soil and/or waste piping
- Installation of fire suppression (sprinkler system) piping
- Installation of electrical cables, conduits, device boxes, recessed panels (without breakers) and service equipment
- Installation of power supply and signal cabling for fire/smoke alarm systems

An application for a Plumbing Permit, Electrical Permit or Fire Suppression Permit, including plans and the associated fees, must first be accepted for review by the Department of Licenses and Inspections as a prerequisite for obtaining a Rough-In Permit.

NOTE: The granting of a rough-in permit is at the discretion of the Department. The Department reserves the right to deny or discontinue rough-in permits at any time.

Contractor Duties

The contractor is required, within 60 days, to initiate the work and obtain the respective Final Permit (Plumbing, Electrical or Fire Suppression) for which application was made. Failure to do so renders the Rough-In Permit invalid and will result in the imposition of an inspection fee equal to the permit fee.

- A **Plumbing Rough-In Permit** does not include approval of the installation of fixtures, or the connection of any service point.
- An **Electrical Rough-In Permit** does not include approval of the installation of devices such as receptacles, switches, circuit breaker panels, lighting fixtures, motors, pumps or other devices, or the connections of any service points.
- A **Fire Suppression Rough-In Permit** does not include approval of the installation of sprinkler heads, pressure relief valves, fire pumps, fire control stations, or other specialized fittings or equipment, and the connection of any service point.

Approved through-penetrations systems must be applied at all openings around penetrations through fire resistant rated walls, floors, ceilings, etc. prior to inspection and concealment.

NO WORK MAY BE CONCEALED UNTIL FULL PERMIT IS OBTAINED.

Permit Holder Duties (Electrical Work)

The permit holder shall coordinate all required electrical inspections directly with the Electrical Inspection Agency.

The Electrical Inspection Agency shall not provide final approval of the rough-in work until the full permit is obtained and the work is deemed compliant with the approved plans.

City's Inspection Role

All plumbing, electrical or fire suppression rough-in work shall remain exposed, and no close-in approval shall be given by the Department, unless the plan review process has been completed and the respective full Plumbing Permit, Electrical Permit or Fire Suppression Permit has been issued.

Where any installation subject to inspection prior to use is covered or concealed without having first been inspected, the Department shall have the authority to require that such work be exposed for inspection.

Plumbing Exception – In special cases, and with the approval of the Department's District Supervisor, the plumber can receive rough-in approval for underground plumbing work as long as the installation is documented by the Department's Inspector, **and** the work is verifiable as complying with the permit drawings, once issued. If the Department determines that the work is not in compliance, it shall be the responsibility of the registered master plumber to correct all work that was previously concealed.

Application Requirements

The application can be submitted in-person at the Permit and License Center located in the Municipal Services Building or online using eCLIPSE with the following:

1. You must first submit a full permit application (Plumbing, Electrical or Fire Suppression) with plans and associated filing fee. You must request and fully describe rough-in work on the permit application.
2. Once the full permit application and associated plans are accepted for review, you must then submit a separate application for the rough-in approval.
3. Rough-in approval lasts for 60 days and the work must not be concealed.

Note: You cannot get rough-in approval once the full permit has been approved.

Fees

Refer to the L&I permit fee schedule for applicable fees.

Paper submissions will incur a **$4 per page** imaging fee. Surcharges of **$7.50** will apply.