Licenses & Inspections Virtual Inspections

Introduction & Learning Objectives

- What are virtual inspections?

- The benefits

- Mandatory requirements

- Learning the process

- Permits and inspections that qualify

- Unique situation (plumbing digs)

Defining Virtual Inspections

- Virtual inspections are inspections that can be conducted without the need for a physical site visit.

- The Vuspex virtual inspections application has been integrated into L&I's inspection software to conduct inspections and investigations.

- Virtual inspections are a method of inspection that allows the needed inspections to proceed in a timely manner by the owner or contractor located on the jobsite and the inspector performing the inspection remotely.

- Virtual inspections are currently accessible for a select range of permit types and inspection categories.

- Virtual inspections have the same requirements and inspection standards as a normal physical inspection.

Benefits of Virtual Inspections

- Streamlines the inspection process by eliminating additional travel time for the inspector and reducing wait time for customers on site.

- Customers can participate remotely, providing transparency in the inspection process and potentially reducing misunderstandings or disputes.

- Digital records and photographic documentation captured during virtual inspections provide clear, time-stamped evidence of compliance, which can be valuable in case of disputes or future reference.

- By minimizing the need for travel, virtual inspections contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing carbon emissions.

Mandatory Requirements

- Must request one of the qualifying virtual inspection types through the eClipse portal or through the IVR.

- A "field agent" is required to be physically present at the inspection site while the virtual inspection is being conducted by the inspector.

- The field agent must have a tablet or smart phone that has an internet connection through WiFi or cellular data.

- The tablet or smart phone being used by the field agent must have a working camera.

- The field agent is required to communicate & follow the inspectors' instructions during the virtual inspection.

- You must have access to the site for the inspection.

Virtual Inspection Process

Step 1

Request your inspection by either:

- Calling the IVR system at (215) 255-4040

    - Choose an inspection type that is a "Virtual" type inspection.

OR

- Log onto your permit through the eClipse portal at
https://eclipse.phila.gov/phillylmsprod/pub/lms/Login.aspx

    - Choose an inspection type that is a "Virtual" type inspection

- **Please remember to provide the phone number of the contact who will conduct the inspection.**

Request	Type of Inspection	Latest Inspection Result	Recommended Inspection Order	
☐	Virtual - Virtual Solar Installation Inspection 823	Not Requested	1	Mandatory
🚫	Virtual - Virtual Permit Issuance Notification Inspection 801	Requested	44	

Virtual Inspection Process

Step 2

Be on site the day of your inspection.

- You will be contacted by your inspector prior to setup a rough timeframe for having the inspection performed.

- You should have a tape measure and must have access to the entire site being inspected.

- Failure to be on site or if we are unable to reach you may result in a necessary reinspection.
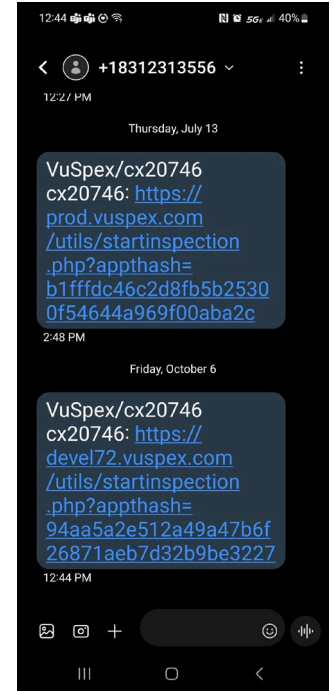
Virtual Inspection Process

Step 3

Received link to start your virtual inspection

- You will receive a text message to the phone number provided in your inspection request with a link to begin the virtual inspection.

- Once the link is open, the inspector will read the disclaimer statement and ask you to affirm.

- The inspector can invite other numbers or emails to join and witness the inspection if requested.

- The inspector will then have access to view your camera and access to your flashlight through your phone.

- The inspector will be taking photos with your phone's camera during the inspection.

- Directions will be given and must be followed throughout the entire inspection.

Permit and Inspection Types

General Minor Permits

- *EZ Deck (Exist. One-Family Dwelling)*

  - Virtual Footing Inspection – *Requested on a variety of permits when footings are formed and ready for inspection*

  - Virtual Deck Final Framing Inspection – *Requested when deck is completed*

- *EZ Roof Covering Replacement*

  - Virtual Roofing Inspection – *Requested during roof installation*

- *EZ Wall Covering Replacement*

  - Virtual Wall Covering Installation Inspection – *Requested when final coat is installed*

EZ Permits

Permit and Inspection Types

General Permits

- *Solar Panels & Structure*

  - o Virtual Installation Inspection – *Requested on a variety of permits when installation is ready for inspection*

- *Retaining Wall*

  - o Virtual Footing Inspection – *Requested on a variety of permits when footings are formed and ready for inspection*

  - o Virtual Installation Inspection – *Requested on a variety of permits when installation is ready for inspection*

- *Sign*

  - o Virtual Footing Inspection – *Requested on a variety of permits when footings are formed and ready for inspection*

  - o Virtual Installation Inspection – *Requested on **a variety of permits when installation is ready for inspection***

- *Tank Install/Removal*

  - o Virtual Tank Removal Inspection – *Requested when tank is being removed*

General Permits

New Available Virtual Inspections

- *EZ Kitchen & Bath (Register Master Plumbers Only)*

  o *Virtual Rough – Requested when rough plumbing is complete*

  o *Virtual Final – Requested when project is complete*

- *Residential Building Permits*

  o *Damproofing & backfill inspections*

- *Commercial Building Permits*

  o *Damproofing & backfill inspections*

New Virtual Inspection

Exterior Plumbing

- *Storm & Sanitary + Domestic Water Service*

This option will be available on an AS-needed basis and only when the local inspection district is unable to conduct an on-site inspection. Scheduled through your portal as a Plumbing Service Inspection, if the district refers it to the Remote Inspection Unit you will receive a phone call & a convenient time will be set for your inspection.