



TOPIC: Sanitary Sewer Pipe Materials - OPSC/7/#3

CODE: Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code: 2021 Edition

REVISED: March 30, 2023 [Rebecca Esau], Director

REFERENCE: Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code – Chapter 7

SUBJECT: HDPE Sewer Pipe Under an Existing Building and/or Within an Existing Building Envelope

QUESTION: Can high-density polyethylene (HDPE) sanitary sewer pipe material be used for building drain pipe as an alternative to approved pipe materials listed in Chapter 7 of the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code (OPSC) when the pipe will be under an existing building foundation and/or inside an existing building envelope?

RESPONSE: Yes, provided the HDPE pipe is clearly marked as being HDPE material and the HDPE material extends not more than 18 inches interior to the exterior wall of an existing building.

The OPSC limits the materials that can be used for sanitary sewer drainage pipes to those specifically listed in Chapter 7. Any material not included on that list may not be used, unless it provides equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability and safety over those prescribed by the OPSC. Chapter 7 of the OPSC also prohibits sewer or other drainage piping that is made of materials other than those approved for use within a building from being installed under or within five feet of any building or structure.

The Bureau of Development Services (BDS) has determined that HDPE pipe material meets the equivalency requirements of the OPSC for use in sanitary sewers for existing buildings and may be used in lieu of other listed materials under the following conditions:

- A.** The HDPE material can be located within five feet and underneath the building it is serving;
- B.** The HDPE material can extend up to 18” into the building envelope measured from the interior of the foundation wall, slab, or crawl space;

OPSC/7/#3

HDPE Sanitary Sewer Pipe Material Under Foundation and Inside Building Envelope

Page 2 of 2

March 30, 2023

- C.** The HDPE pipe shall be clearly identified with a weather resistant label, sign or marking stating “building drain material is HDPE”; and
- D.** The HDPE pipe shall be connected to the existing piping with an approved flexible drawband connection device.

Use of HDPE pipe in cases not allowed by this code guide or the OPSC will be reviewed and considered on a case-by-case basis through the BDS administrative appeals process.

Update March 30, 2023 edition

Revised May 1, 2018

Revised June 8, 2015

New October 11, 2013