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Below Grade Piping

No.: BUILDING-47

Date: 2021-04-22

This bulletin is to inform Builders and Contractors that steel piping is not permitted underground (below grade) in the City of Richmond.

Summary

- Steel piping including galvanized steel is not permitted underground (below grade) in the City of Richmond for the installation of sprinklers, fire departments connections, water supply, drainage systems, and other similar installations.

General Requirements

- Due to the high water table and unique soil condition of Richmond, steel piping is susceptible to corrosion and damage, even when piping is externally coated, wrapped, and internally galvanized. As such, steel piping is not permitted to be installed underground.
- All underground piping for sprinklers, fire department connections, water supply, drainage systems, and similar installations are to be of ductile iron, corrosion resistant products (eg. C900 Blue Brute), or other acceptable alternatives.
- Please reach out to building@richmond.ca for more information on the preparation of drawings.

References

- NFPA 13-2013, Section 10.1.2 and 10.1.3.
- BC Plumbing Code 2018, Article 2.2.1.1.

Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions concerning this bulletin, please reference the Bulletin number and email building@richmond.ca or call the Building Approvals General Inquiries line at 604-276-4118.