



Digging on City Property



Digging on City property is regulated under the City's Excavation & Backfilling Bylaw. This document can be reviewed in full on our website or by contacting City Hall.

When do I need a permit?

- A permit is required any time digging takes place on City property. This includes digging up of streets, boulevards, sidewalks or curbs for installing or repairing utility services.

What are the costs for a permit?

- There is a \$120 application fee for an excavation permit. In addition, the applicant must submit a deposit to cover the estimated costs of restoring any City assets (road, curb, sidewalk, etc) to their original condition. Once the restoration is complete, the City will either bill the applicant for any shortfall, or refund any overage amount.

What are the steps for getting a permit?

1. An application is submitted to City Hall, along with the required application fee.
2. The City Engineer will review the application and proposed work plan, as well as calculate the estimated fee for restoration costs. This may include a cost percentage based on the current condition of the street, curb and sidewalk, as applicable.
3. Once the permit is approved, digging can begin.
4. The City Engineer must perform an inspection of the site before backfilling work is done, as well as when the work is complete.

Why does the City require excavation permits?

- City streets, sidewalks and utilities are public assets and any work being done on them must be done under the direction of the City. In addition, the City's policy is that private work (such as the installation of new utility services) should not be paid for out of public funds but should be the responsibility of the property owner.

What if the City is the one requesting the work?

- There are no permit fees or deposits required for work being done on the City's behalf. However, a permit application is still required.