

Homeowner's Informational Packet for an Irrigation System



Kentucky Division of Plumbing
www.dhbc.ky.gov/plb

Kentucky State Law, Regulations, and Code

<https://dhbc.ky.gov/Documents/2023%20KSPLRCB.pdf>

or



When is a Permit Required?

Plumbing permits are required for new plumbing installations including water services from the water meter to the home and house sewers from the home to the city sewer tap or septic system. Existing plumbing installations, if a fixture, soil, waste opening, or conductor is to be moved or relocated. All new plumbing installations. Permits are not required for the repair of leaks, cocks, valves, or the cleaning out of waste or sewer pipes.

Useful Links

Homeowner's Permit Registration Website:

<https://dept-hbc-ky.smartgovcommunity.com/Public/Home>

Plumbing Inspectors by County:

<https://dhbc.ky.gov/Documents/Plumbing%20Inspector%20Itinerary.pdf>

Requirements for Installing an Irrigation System Water Service

1. A new plumbing construction permit is required to be purchased online via the [SmartGov online portal](#) or by contacting a [plumbing inspector in your county](#).
2. Homeowner plumbing permits can only be obtained from the homeowner and approved by the inspector if it is for the homeowner's personal residential use. (No rental or short-term rental properties will be approved)
3. When purchasing a plumbing permit, you are required to mark under the "Details" tab if the sewer is going to a municipal or private sewer. A municipal sewer is a sewer that empties into a sewer main, typically maintained by the city or county. A private sewer empties into an on-site sewage disposal system. (Typically, a septic tank)
4. The line installed between the water meter and the backflow prevention device is considered a water service even though you have to purchase an irrigation permit. **This water service is to be installed no less than thirty (30) inches deep. There is no exception to this rule.**

5. A copper tracer wire of no less than eighteen (18) gauge, and made for direct burial, shall be placed parallel to the water service. The tracer wire shall be affixed to the foundation where the water service enters the building or placed within the water meter vault by drilling a small hole in the side and running the wire into it.
6. The line would also need to be protected if sharp rocks or boulders are present to prevent them from rubbing holes through the piping. This can be done by backfilling with good soil or six (6) inches of sand around the piping or by placing a sleeve pipe over the water service.
7. If a sewer and water service intersect, then a sleeve shall be used on the water service piping extending five (5) feet on either side of the intersection.
8. A separate valve box is required for the installation of a service valve, and it must remain at the thirty (30) inch depth. No bleeder cock is allowed on any service valve.
9. All service valves must be located as close to the water meter vault as possible. This is to prevent stagnant water from entering the water distribution system.
10. A blow-down tee is required on all irrigation systems. This tee can be installed in a vault but must have a screwed-on cap or plug to prevent a cross-connection. This plug or cap can be brought up to a shallower depth, for more easy access to blow down the system. In most applications, this tee will be placed in the same valve box where the service valve is located.
11. After the water service has been installed it is the responsibility of the permit holder to call the local inspector for the inspection.
12. Site tubes are allowed as long as they are four (4) inch minimum and placed directly over the water service so that the material used, and the depth of the service can be measured to make sure the thirty (30) inch minimum is maintained.
13. Before installing a backflow prevention assembly, ensure all supply piping is thoroughly flushed to remove foreign material.
14. All backflow prevention assemblies must be installed in an accessible location to facilitate testing and maintenance.
15. All enclosures for backflow prevention assemblies must have removable sides or tops to facilitate the removal of parts during repair.
16. Do not install a PRZ in a pit or below grade unless a four (4) inch drain is installed and able to flow through piping to daylight by gravity.

17. All backflow protection devices must be protected against freezing, flooding, and mechanical damage.
18. All backflow prevention assemblies must be installed with proper clearance above, below, and around them to provide adequate space for testing and maintenance.
19. The critical level on the PVB must be installed at twelve (12) inches above the highest sprinkler head. Since this is a minimum value, it is understood that the unit may be installed at heights greater than twelve (12) inches.
20. Install an RPZ in a location where differential pressure relief valve discharge is readily visible and located twelve (12) inches above the grade or the drain.
21. After completion of the installation of any backflow assembly device, a required test is required by a certified backflow prevention technician. The technician is required to perform a test to make sure the backflow prevention device is working properly. An RPZ shall be tested annually.

The contents of this brochure are for informational purposes only about Kentucky law governing the installation of residential irrigation systems. The Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet; Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, and Division of Plumbing make no warranty that the information provided is accurate or timely. Consumers are advised to seek professional advice rather than relying solely on the instructions provided in this brochure. The Cabinet/Department/Division assumes no responsibility and accepts no liability for any damage suffered due to an individual's reliance on the information contained herein. Consumers are cautioned to read the contents carefully and utilize the information provided at their own risk.