



Procedure for Connecting to a Municipal Sanitary Sewer Service

This guide is provided to assist the customer in making a connection to The District Municipality of Muskoka municipal sanitary sewer system. Please follow all of the steps listed below to avoid having difficulties with future service.

1. A connection permit must be obtained from the Water & Sewer Department prior to any work commencing. The applicant shall pay an application fee when the connection permit is submitted. You cannot obtain a connection permit at 70 Pine Street. Please call 705-645-6764 to make an appointment to receive your connection permit. The connection permit has a one year expiration time.
2. A connection permit does not negate the need for a building permit. A Plumbing Inspection Permit must also be obtained from your local Area Municipality, Building Department prior to any work commencing.
3. The District Municipality of Muskoka By-law 86-18 regulates how connections can be made to the sanitary sewer system. This By-law prohibits the connection of perimeter drains, eavestroughs and sump pumps into the sanitary sewers. The District Municipality of Muskoka By-law 86-19 and the current sewer use By-law regulates the disposal of sewage. It outlines waste discharge limits to the sanitary sewer collection system. Any person who contravenes the provisions of these By-laws shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction, therefore, shall be liable to a fine for each violation. Each day in which any such violation continues shall be deemed as a separate offence. Such penalties shall be exclusive of costs.
4. When the District Water & Sewer Department perform service locates, every effort is made to ensure accuracy, however, there is no guarantee. You must verify the location and depth of the municipal lines prior to installing your laterals.
5. The types of materials preferred by The District, which may be used in accordance with Part 7 of the Building Code, are: SDR 35 PVC or SDR 28 PVC (plastic) sewer pipe. All fittings adapters and elbows must also be of this grade of pipe. Each pipe and fitting must have a rubber gasket in it. The proper types of pipe and fittings should be available at local hardware stores or from plumbers in the area. The pipe must be installed at a minimum 2% grade.
6. All services must be inspected by the Area Municipality Building Inspector before being backfilled. If the service is back filled without being inspected, it will be necessary to re-excavate the line so that an inspection can be completed.
7. In accordance with District By-law 2011-18, sewer pump connections will be made with a grinder pump system only. Wet well storage volume will be kept to a minimum to limit the possibility of septic conditions.
NOTE: When excavating the trench, you must adhere to the requirements of the Occupational Health & Safety Act.
8. Low pressure sewer fittings shall conform to the same standard as water services. The service pipe must be series 160 polyethylene pipe, generally 40 mm (1 ½") diameter. All connections and couplings must be made using municipal compression type brass fittings with stainless steel inserts. No couplings are to be made using insert type fittings with gear clamps or plastic compression fittings, which reduce the internal diameter of the pipe. All low pressure sewer connections made to the municipal system must be inspected by a District of Muskoka Operator. A fee for this service applies if performed outside normal business hours.
9. Billing will commence on the installation date indicated on the permit (this date is provided by the customer) for existing services or existing structures. **Do not obtain a permit if you do not know your installation date for the permit.**
10. The foregoing information is provided as a guide. If you have any questions regarding making the connection, please contact The District Municipality of Muskoka, Engineering and Public Works Department at 705-645-6764 or 1-800-281-3483 for further assistance.
11. Connections to commercial establishments shall include "Le-Ron" inspection chamber, located at the street line, as part of the installation.

Important Insurance Information

A sewage backup into a home or business is just about everyone's worst nightmare!

Under Provincial law, Municipalities are protected against claims arising from damages caused by sewage - even if the damage results from a blockage or other problem in the municipal sewers. Although the District of Muskoka does its best to minimize the possibility of sewage back-ups, they can sometimes result from factors beyond anyone's control. ***Clean up and repair costs will be the responsibility of the property owner.*** Therefore, you should ***make sure that you are properly insured against damage from sewage back-ups. The District recommends the property owner considers the installation of a backwater valve.*** The good news is that insurance is readily available. It's usually quite inexpensive and is often included in owner's policies at no extra cost. Please review your insurance policy to make sure that you are protected. Your insurance agent can answer any questions you may have about your policy and the need for additional coverage.

If we can be of further assistance or answer any questions, please feel free to contact The District Water & Sewer Department at 705-645-6764 or 1-800-281-3483.

How do I contact the Engineering and Public Works Department?

Mail: The District Municipality of Muskoka
Engineering & Public Works Department
70 Pine Street
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3

By Fax: (705) 645-7599
By Email: publicworks@muskoka.on.ca
By Phone: (705) 645-6764
Toll Free: 1-800-281-3483 (*Ontario only*)

Financial Considerations

The property owner may apply to the Commissioner of Finance and Corporate Services in writing for a loan from The District Municipality of Muskoka in an amount not exceeding the costs of making such a connection including the cost of all supplies and equipment.

The loan shall only be used to make the required connection(s) and shall only be advanced after the applicant has made the connection(s) and provided evidence of connection and of the actual costs of making the connection(s).

The term of the loan shall be for a five (5) year, ten (10) year or twenty (20) year term and the interest rate will be determined by the District at the time the loan is approved.

In addition to the principal sum of the loan approved, interest will be applied to the principal sum commencing the first of the month following approval of the loan to the borrower to the end of the calendar year at the prescribed interest rate. The amended principal will be repaid along with interest over the term of the approved loan.

Repayment of the loan will commence in the calendar year following the loan's approval and payments will be collected on the property owner's tax bill.

The loan will also be secured by registration of a charge on title and is a pre-condition to advancing the loan funds.

The loan can be paid off at anytime by contacting the Finance Department in writing.

The outstanding amount will include accrued interest to the specified date of payout

The Terms & Conditions are outlined on the **Loan Application** form. Please contact the Water & Sewer Billing Department for more information.

How do I contact the Water & Sewer Billing Department?

Mail: The District Municipality of Muskoka
Finance Department
70 Pine Street
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3

By Fax: (705) 645-5319
By Email: watersewerbilling@muskoka.on.ca
By Phone: (705) 645-7954
Toll Free: 1-800-461-4210 (*within the 705 area code*)