



Private Water Systems Piping Guidance Document

Questions have been raised regarding the allowable length of water service pipe (outside use) that may be extended through the foundation wall in a private water system. Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3701-28-08(E) specifies the pipe materials and fittings and their respective standards in Tables 1-3 which are to be used in private water systems. The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) recognizes the need to provide additional guidance and explanation for situations involving materials approved for indoor use versus outdoor use.

When running an outside service line from a well (or another private water system) to the inside of a building, a transition between piping materials must occur at some point. The transition point would be at a “fitting,” and it would make sense for this fitting to be easily accessible for observation, maintenance or repair, since the fitting would most likely be the problematic area if there were to be one. It is preferable to make the transition inside the foundation as opposed to buried outside the foundation, where it is difficult to access for inspection and repairs.

Industry has requested that if the pressure tank is located within three (3) feet of where the water line enters the foundation, that they be allowed to connect to the pressure tank without being required to change materials. The Private Water Systems rules do not specifically address the issue of distance inside or outside the foundation where the service line (outside use) must be switched over to the distribution line (inside use). ODH is providing the following guidance:

- Piping materials rated for outside use only, once inside the foundation, should be minimized as much as possible.
- If the pressure tank is located within three (3) feet of where the water line enters the interior, piping materials rated for outside use only may extend to the connection at the pressure tank. Fittings may be used within this distance to connect the piping material used on the exterior of the foundation to the pressure tank.
- Piping used past the pressure tank, within the private water system jurisdiction (for example piping used to connect components of a continuous disinfection or filtration system installed under the private water system permit), must be of a material listed in Table 2 [Water distribution pipe (indoor use)].
- When the pressure tank is located greater than three (3) feet horizontal distance from where the water line enters the interior, piping materials rated for outside use only may extend inside the foundation one (1) foot/ twelve (12) inches or less when measured from the foundation wall to the fitting where the piping material transitions from exterior to interior use

Please see the example diagrams of “acceptable” and “unacceptable” installations.

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