

Office of Building Department

Town of Southington, Connecticut

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John Weichsel
Municipal Center
196 North Main Street
Southington, CT 06489

SECOND WATER METER

Installing a second water meter – What is the meter serving?

Second meter permit serving outside faucet only: there is No Permit Fee.

Standalone irrigation systems permit by the installing contractor or licensed plumbing contractor. Cost of permit to be paid by contractor. Second meter permit by owner no permit fees.

Second meter permit with Lawn Irrigation System requires a Backflow prevention device. The State of Connecticut Public Health Code Regulation 19-13-B37 mandates backflow prevention devices to be tested annually. For more information go to Water Department on the Town of Southington website or call the Southington Water Department at (860) 628-5593. The second meter permit also requires the make of the Backflow preventer. Cost of permit based on installation cost of backflow/irrigation system.

Irrigation systems within the State of Connecticut requires permits by the State of Connecticut Building Code and when installed by a licensed contractor it is also a requirement of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection that the contractor obtain a permit or that the owner of the property obtain a permit prior to the start of work.

The permit charge for the backflow and irrigation systems is a requirement of the State Building Code which requires that permit fees be based on cost of material and installation.

Irrigation systems per C.G.S.29-265b shall have a rain sensor device.

Meters to be installed per town of Southington Sewer Department and State of Connecticut Building Code. See Sewer Department for complete installation details.

January 2021

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October 19, 2015

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

REQUIREMENTS FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Contractors or the Homeowner must obtain all the required building permits before any work can begin. This ensures that any work performed will be done to code and that any problems found by the Building Official will be corrected before the work is completed. Once completed, inspected and passed, a Certificate of Compliance will be issued.

Any work performed must be done outside of the Town of Southington Right of Way (ROW) OR a “Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement” is required. See the Town of Southington Engineering Department for more information.

Additional requirements: A second water meter may be installed for irrigation systems on the public water system or a well system. See the Town of Southington Sewer Department for more information. Per the State of Connecticut Building Code, all systems are required to have a rain sensor installed.

Tips for Homeowners

If you have questions, need to verify a contractor's license, or check on complaints against a contractor, contact the Department of Consumer Protection at 860-713-6110 or visit our website at www.ct.gov/dcp.

Building Permits: Contractors must obtain all the required building permits from the local building department before any work can begin. This will ensure that any work performed will be done to code and that any problems found by the building official will be corrected before the work is completed. However, the homeowner is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the necessary building permits are obtained. Always call your local building department for advice and guidance before any work is begun.

Insurance: Always check to make sure the contractor has proper insurance. Contractors should have liability insurance for themselves and their employees as well as worker's compensation if they have employees.

Guarantees and Warranties: Workmanship warranties are usually good only if they are in writing, and even a written warranty is only as good as the contractor standing behind it. Before making final payment on your project, always make sure that the contractor has provided you with any and all written manufacturer warranties on materials used in your project, and keep these documents in a safe place.

12-10

Important Contact Info for Installers

- Questions: 860-713-6110
- For relevant applications and statutes, visit www.ct.gov/dcp
- For examination information, visit www.psiexams.com



State of Connecticut
Department of Consumer Protection
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Home Improvement Unit: (860) 713-6110
Toll Free Number: 1-800-842-2649

www.ct.gov/dcp



Installing Irrigation Systems



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Department of Consumer Protection

Lawn irrigation has both residential and commercial applications, to enhance outdoor decorating and watering of lawns and gardens.

Does lawn or garden irrigation work require a license?

Yes, under Connecticut General Statute Section 20-330. The Department of Consumer Protection is responsible for the licensing of all occupational trades persons who perform work in Connecticut. Irrigation work falls under the State's legal definition of Plumbing and Piping Work,* and therefore, irrigation installers need a plumbing and piping work license, such as a J-3 Limited Plumbing Contractor License.

* **Connecticut General Statute Section 20-330** defines "Plumbing & piping work" as: "the installation, repair, replacement, alteration, or maintenance of gas, water and associated fixtures, laboratory equipment, sanitary equipment, other than subsurface sewage disposal systems, fire prevention apparatus, all water systems for human usage, sewage treatment facilities and all associated fittings within a building and includes lateral storm and sanitary lines from buildings to the mains, process piping, swimming pools and pumping equipment, and includes making connections to back flow prevention devices, and includes low voltage wiring, not exceeding twenty-four volts, used within a lawn sprinkler system.... For the purposes of this subdivision, "process piping" means piping or tubing that conveys liquid or gas that is used directly in the production of a product for human consumption."

Licensing for Irrigation Systems

The most important component of any sprinkler irrigation system is the source of water. The water source may be a pump and well or a main supply source. *Back-flow preventers* are required for a main water source to allow flow in one direction only. This will prevent water from returning into the drinking water supply with potential contaminants.

However, back-flow preventers can only be installed by a licensed P-1 Unlimited Contractor or P-2 Unlimited Journeyman.

The *timer controller* is the heart of the sprinkler irrigation system because it tells the system when to water -- which day, time, and how much. Valves control the amount and flow of water from the sprinkler system. Low voltage electrical systems power the timer controller which in turn will tell the valves what to do, and must be installed by a licensed contractor. The wiring used within a lawn sprinkler system cannot exceed 24 volts, and local permits must be taken out for installation.

All trade contractors must be licensed with the Department of Consumer Protection and they must display that license number in all advertising and on all vehicles. The license numbers are important in verifying whether or not a contractor is in fact properly licensed.

Why should someone choose only a Licensed Contractor?

It is against State law for a person to install or offer to install an irrigation system unless he or she has first obtained the appropriate licensure, as outlined in this brochure.

All licensed trade contractors must undergo rigorous training in both the classroom and during on-the-job training in order to qualify for taking an exam. For example; a plumber would have to complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 576 hours of class room instruction in order to even take the exam to become licensed.

Licensure means the contractor has successfully proven proficiency in his or her particular trade and has passed an exam.

A home improvement registration and an electrical license **do not** qualify anyone to install lawn irrigation systems. A home improvement registration or electrical contractor license merely allows that contractor to subcontract the irrigation system installation to a properly licensed plumbing or irrigation contractor.

What happens when a person or persons perform occupational trades work without a license?

Any person found in violation of Connecticut General Statute Section 20-330 can be fined up to \$200 for each violation, as well as face civil penalties imposed by the licensing board. The civil penalties are \$1,000 per first violation, \$1,500 for a second violation and \$3,000 for the third and each subsequent violation that occurs less than three years after the second or prior violation. Additionally, under Section 20-341a, working without a license, apprenticeship registration or certificate can lead to arrest for a Class B misdemeanor.