

Original September 4, 2007  
Revised June 29, 2015

City of Oregon City

**BUILDING DIVISION**  
**POLICY**

# Water Line Replacements

The replacement of an existing metallic water line with non-metallic piping may compromise the electrical grounding system on existing older building (built prior to 1975) if the metallic water line was used as the only source of grounding. Without a proper service ground, a short circuit may not trip the safety fuse or circuit breaker which could lead to appliance damage, fire or a serious electrical shock.

On all permit applications for water line replacements, both the plumbing contractor and homeowner must be notified that no final plumbing inspection will be approved until it has been verified that the grounding system has been maintained or a new grounding system has been installed.

**Exception: A minimum of 10 feet of copper or steel piping is installed and is directly connected to the existing metallic piping system.**

Verification may be through past permit records. The installation of a replacement grounding system must be done under the benefit of an electrical permit and inspection.