

EXCAVATION IN PUBLIC STREETS

7. EXCAVATION IN PUBLIC STREETS – The E-Permit & U-Permit

7.1 E-Permit and U-Permit Permit Description and Purpose

The Excavation Permit (E-Permit) and the Utility Permit (U-Permit) are issued to allow construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, abandonment or removal of facilities that require vertical boring, horizontal boring, directional boring, trenching, or excavation in the public right-of-way. Examples of projects permitted under an E-Permit or U-Permit include construction work related to the relocation of a utility box, the relocation of a streetlight, the drilling of monitoring wells, and test boring to locate substructures. Excavation on private property adjacent to the public right-of-way may also require an E-Permit to ensure adequate lateral support of the public right-of-way. Failure to check the impact of excavation on private property relative to the public right-of-way could lead to the undermining and failure of the sidewalk or street pavement. The E-Permit and U-Permit may be issued in conjunction with an A-Permit (minor street construction), or with a B-Permit (major street construction).

The public right-of-way generally consists of street easements that contain City streets, roadways, alleys, parkways, and sidewalks. The public right-of-way also includes public easements, such as sewer and storm drain easements and unimproved, “paper” streets.

The purpose of these permit processes is to ensure that excavation work complies with the City’s design and material specifications and that construction work is properly inspected. As excavation work can be hazardous, the public safety and welfare are protected when these processes are strictly enforced. In addition, these permit processes also allow the BOE to keep records of the location, ownership, and type of underground facilities within the public right-of-way. Finally, these permit processes help ensure that the Permittee is receiving a quality construction product.

The difference between the E-Permit and U-Permit is that the E-Permit is issued to private entities and individuals that do not have the authority to occupy the public right-of-way. A one-time authority to occupy the public right-of-way is granted to private entities and individuals through the underground Revocable Permit (R-Permit) process. If you do not have the authority to occupy the public right-of-way, please refer to the E-Permit section and Chapter 8.

The U-Permit is issued to entities with the authority to occupy the public right-of-way under a City or State Franchise Agreement, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the State Public Utilities Commission, or some other legal authority. In general, U-Permits are issued to utility companies only. If you have the authority to occupy the public right-of-way please, refer to the U-Permit Section.

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City's Authority for the Excavation Permits

Excavation permits are defined and processed according to Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections [62.01](#), [62.03](#), [62.04](#) and [62.05](#).

No person, nor any department or officer of this City shall make an excavation in or under the surface of any public street or public place for the installation, inspection, repair, abandonment, or removal of any tank, pipe, conduit, duct, tunnel, or footing, or for any other purpose, or make an excavation on private property adjacent to a public street where lateral support to such street or improvements or property within such street is imperiled by such excavation, without first making and filing a written application therefor with the Board and receiving a permit from the Board to do so. No portions of this ordinance shall be construed or is intended to exempt sewer and storm drain connections; sewers and storms drains being constructed under "B" permit provisions of this article; or departments or officers of this City acting in a governmental capacity and performing work with their own forces for the City.

The area in a street between the face of an existing or future curb and four feet back of such curb face is reserved for use by the Department of Public Works. Installation of facilities within, or other use of, this area will not be permitted except as provided herein. The Board may issue permits as provided in Section [62.02](#) for installations in or use of this area. Such permits are subject to revocation by the Board at any time it becomes necessary to construct a public work of any kind within the area.

How long does it take to get an E-Permit or a U-Permit?

It depends on the complexity of the construction work, the size of excavation work, the ability of the Applicant to comply with City Standards, the quality of construction drawings, and the workload of City Staff. In general, the process takes 2 weeks to 3 months to complete.

How long is an E-Permit or U-Permit valid?

6 months from the date of issuance.

When does an E-Permit or U-Permit expire?

6 months from the date of issuance unless construction has commenced.

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How will the City determine if a project is being performed diligently?

The Bureau of Contract Administration (BCA) and the City Engineer will make periodic site visits to make this determination.

Does the City grant E-Permit or U-Permit Extensions?

No extensions of time for commencement of work beyond the 6-month period will be granted.

If my E-Permit or U-Permit is expired, is a new application required?

Yes, a new application is required.