

# Connecting to Sanitary Sewer

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## Homeowner's Responsibilities

Sewer service is available in your area. By the Village of Los Ranchos Ordinance 184, property owners within 200 feet of an available sewer line must connect. In order to connect and use the system, you will need to do the following:

**1 Establish an account with the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (ABCWUA)**

Before connecting to the utility, homeowners must establish an account with the ABCWUA (see information on the second page). The ABCWUA Customer Service number is 924-3920. The ABCWUA charges fees to pay for maintenance of the main lines and the wastewater treatment plant.

**2 Connect your house to the utility.**

Work may be done by a licensed plumber or you may do it yourself (see the "How to Do-It-Yourself" section on the second page). The plumber must run a sewer line from the house or business to the sewer stub located at the property line. If plumbers need to work in the Village's right-of-way, they must also have an excavation and barricading permit for the Village. Contact the office at 344-6582 or come to the office, 6718 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W.

**3 Obtain a permit and inspection from Bernalillo County Building and Zoning.**

Your plumber must go to Bernalillo County Building and Zoning (314-0350, 111 Union Square SE), complete an application for connection, and pay a \$37.50 permit fee for sewer. When the plumber is ready to make the connection to the sewer stub, Bernalillo County Building and Zoning must come and inspect the plumbing work. The plumber will handle this inspection; however, it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that it is inspected. Please see "Plumber's Responsibilities" on second page for more information.



**4 Abandon your septic tank.**

Twenty-four hours prior to abandoning your septic tank, call the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health (314-0310, 111 Union Square SE) to schedule an inspection. To abandon your septic tank, you must disconnect your septic tank, have all contents pumped out, crush the tank lid, and fill the tank with dirt, sand or gravel. After the work is complete, an inspection must be completed by the Office of Environmental Health.

### Village Contact Information:

Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque  
6718 Rio Grande Blvd. N.W.  
Los Ranchos de Abq. NM 87107  
Phone: 344-6582  
Fax: 344-8978

### General Contacts:

Low Income Financial Assistance  
Veronica Carrillo  
2400 Broadway Blvd. SE > 848-1500

ABCWUA Customer Services  
Plaza Del Sol Building 600 2<sup>nd</sup> St. NW  
> 924-3920

Bernalillo County Building and Zoning  
111 Union Square SE > 314-0350

ABCWUA Wastewater Division  
4201 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SW > 873-7067

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## Plumber's Responsibilities

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The plumber will obtain a plumbing permit from Bernalillo County Building and Zoning. The plumber should provide you with a copy of the permit.

The plumber then needs to call for plumbing inspections. Three inspections are required for sewer.

- 1 After the line is connected to the stub at the property line, but prior to connection at the home.
- 2 After the line is connected to the home.
- 3 If connecting to sewer, the plumber is also required to call for a tank abandonment inspection from the Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health (314-0310) and follow the instructions listed on opposite page.

The plumber should provide you with a copy of the excavation/barricade permit and all approval tags. Contact Bernalillo County Building and Zoning (314-0350) if you have any questions concerning your plumber.

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## How to Do-It-Yourself Homeowner's Permit

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A homeowner can install the yard line and abandon the septic tank by following these steps:

- 1 Establish an account with the ABCWUA .
- 2 Take and pass the Homeowner's Plumbing Test held at Bernalillo County Building and Zoning (314-0350, 111 Union Square SE) on Mondays at 8:00 AM. The cost to take the sewer test is \$10.
- 3 Apply for a plumbing permit at Bernalillo County Building and Zoning, conduct the associated work and call for the appropriate inspections.
- 4 If connecting to sewer, abandon the septic tank and call for the appropriate inspections.
- 5 If the excavation requires work in the right-of-way obtain a permit from the Village.

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## Vacuum Sewer Customers

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Requests should call the Wastewater Utilities Superintendent at 873-7012 or 873-7019. The Utility will make every effort to complete the valve installation within 5 working days of the notification. When the Utility completes the valve installation they will leave a "door hanger" indicating that the system is ready for use.

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## Establishing a Sewer Account

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Before connecting to the utility, homeowners are required to establish an account with the ABCWUA (924-3920). The following information is necessary when applying for service:

- 1 Applicant must be legal property owner,
- 2 Bring property tax notice,
- 3 Bring correct property address,
- 4 Bring legal description of property.

### *Utility Expansion Charge (UEC)*

The Utility Expansion Charge for a home to connect to sewer is currently \$1200. The UECs are subject to change.

Application for a utility account must be made at the utility, located at the Plaza Del Sol Building 600 2nd St. NW, ground floor, north entrance. If you have any questions regarding establishing a utility account, please call Utility Customer Service at 924-3920.

### *Utility Loan Program (924-3920)*

Rather than paying the full UEC fees at the time you apply for service, the ABCWUA offers a loan program to every applicant. It includes a down payment and monthly payments (7% interest rate).

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## Financial Assistance Available

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The Bernalillo County Public Works Division, under the direction of the Bernalillo County Commission, can provide financial assistance through the PIPE program (Partners in Improvement and Protection of the Environment).

The PIPE Program is funded through the Environmental Services Gross Receipts Tax adopted by the County Commission in 1991 and the ABCWUA. The assistance is available to all homeowners who reside within the County and meet the financial needs criteria.

Please call Veronica Carrillo at 848-1524 for more information.