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EPOXY COATING PROCEDURES FOR DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM UPGRADING

Epoxy coating systems are being utilized in an effort to extend the service life of aging water piping systems within buildings. Where epoxy coating systems are being used, building owners must satisfy themselves as to the quality of the epoxy products and the application procedures. It is also recommended that professional engineering services be obtained to provide installation specifications and field monitoring of the epoxy coating installation. All epoxy products must meet National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) standards.

The epoxy coating process is considered a maintenance procedure and therefore does not require a plumbing permit. However, the process may involve the replacement of some portions of the piping system and/or various shut off-valves, in which case a plumbing permit is required. All installations of replacement piping must comply with the requirements of the Vancouver Building By-law.

Where the installation of epoxy coatings systems involves the replacement of piping and/or shut off valves, the following requirements apply:

1. If replacement piping penetrates a fire rated wall or ceiling assembly, certified fire stopping is required for the specific application.
2. In situations where shower or combination shower and bathtub filler valves are replaced, the replacement valves must be pressure balanced or thermostatic mixing valves that conform to CSA B125.
3. All shut-off valves are to be tagged in order to note that the system has been lined with epoxy coating and future repairs or alterations to the piping system must be made with mechanical joint pipe fittings.
4. If more than 30 m of an existing piping system is replaced, design drawings sealed by a professional engineer must be submitted with the plumbing permit application.

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