

Guidelines for Extended Foundation and Horizontal Projections



This guideline provides information about private sewer lateral (PSL) testing requirements specific to a structure that has an extended foundation or a horizontal projection. This guideline should be used in addition to the PSL Contractor Guidelines to assist with inspection planning, testing, and obtaining a Compliance Certificate.

Where should the test begin?

To test a building sewer lateral, plug it at the point of connection to the building drain two feet outside the building wall and immediately upstream of the connection to the sewer main (building drain and building sewer are defined in California Plumbing Code, Chapter 2). Parcels in the Cities of Alameda and Albany require upper sewer lateral testing only.

If a structure has an extended foundation in the form of concrete stairs or a concrete retaining wall that extends directly from the foundation, the PSL may be considered to begin at the point the extended foundation ends and the PSL test may then begin at this point. The segment of PSL encased in an extended foundation in form of concrete stairs or a concrete retaining wall can be exempted from the test.

If that segment between the sewer main and the extended foundation is replaced, a 20-year certificate will be issued. Anything less will receive a 7-year certificate.

PSL under horizontal projection of roof, carport, awning, deck, stairs, balcony, walkway floor extending directly from the structure is not exempted from the test.

Concrete slab, driveway, wood stair, or wood retaining wall is not considered as an extended foundation, thus the PSL is not exempted from the test.

Concrete footing for post, pier, column, or pillar, which is not extended directly from the foundation, is not considered as an extended foundation.

The tables on the following pages include descriptions on sample scenarios for where the test should begin.

Scenario 1:

Lateral under a carport; foundation extended 1-2 feet from building wall.

The PSL test is required to test from the extended foundation. The section enclosed in extended foundation does not need to be tested.



Scenario 2:

House foundation above grade. Foundation extended directly from building wall.

The PSL test is required to test from edge of concrete stairs.



Scenario 3:

A portion of lateral runs under concrete stairway.

The PSL segment that encased in concrete stairs does not need to be tested.



Scenario 4:

Lateral under permeable wood stairs and wood retaining wall.

The PSL segment under the wood stairs and wood retaining wall needs to be tested.



Scenario 5:

Lateral exits the building under front porch and wood stairs.

The PSL test is required from building wall, includes the segment under porch and stairs.



Scenario 6:

Lateral under an extension of roof, with foundation setbacks towards the building.

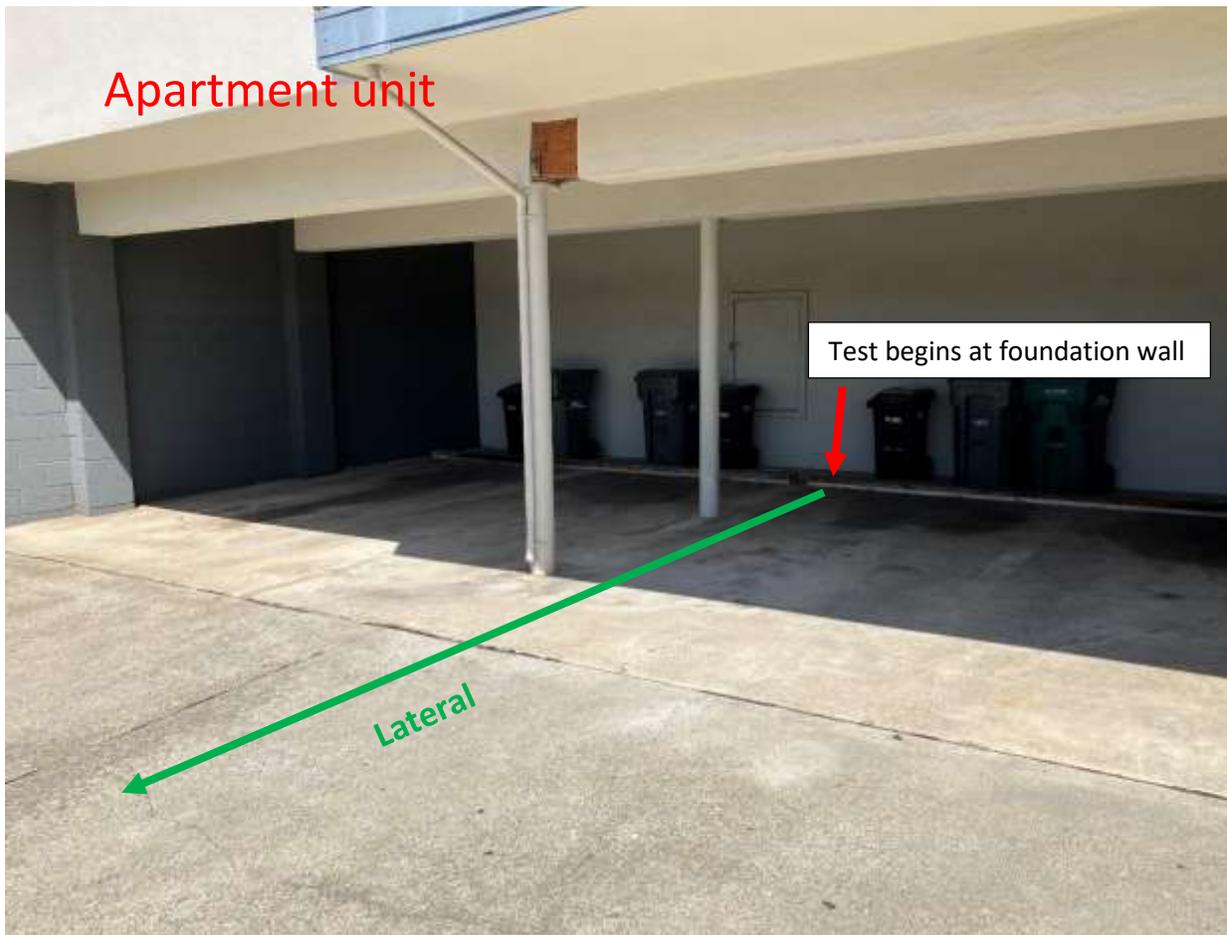
The PSL test is required from building wall, includes the segment under roof projection.



Scenario 7a:

Lateral under an inhabitable floor, with foundation setbacks to the back of carport.

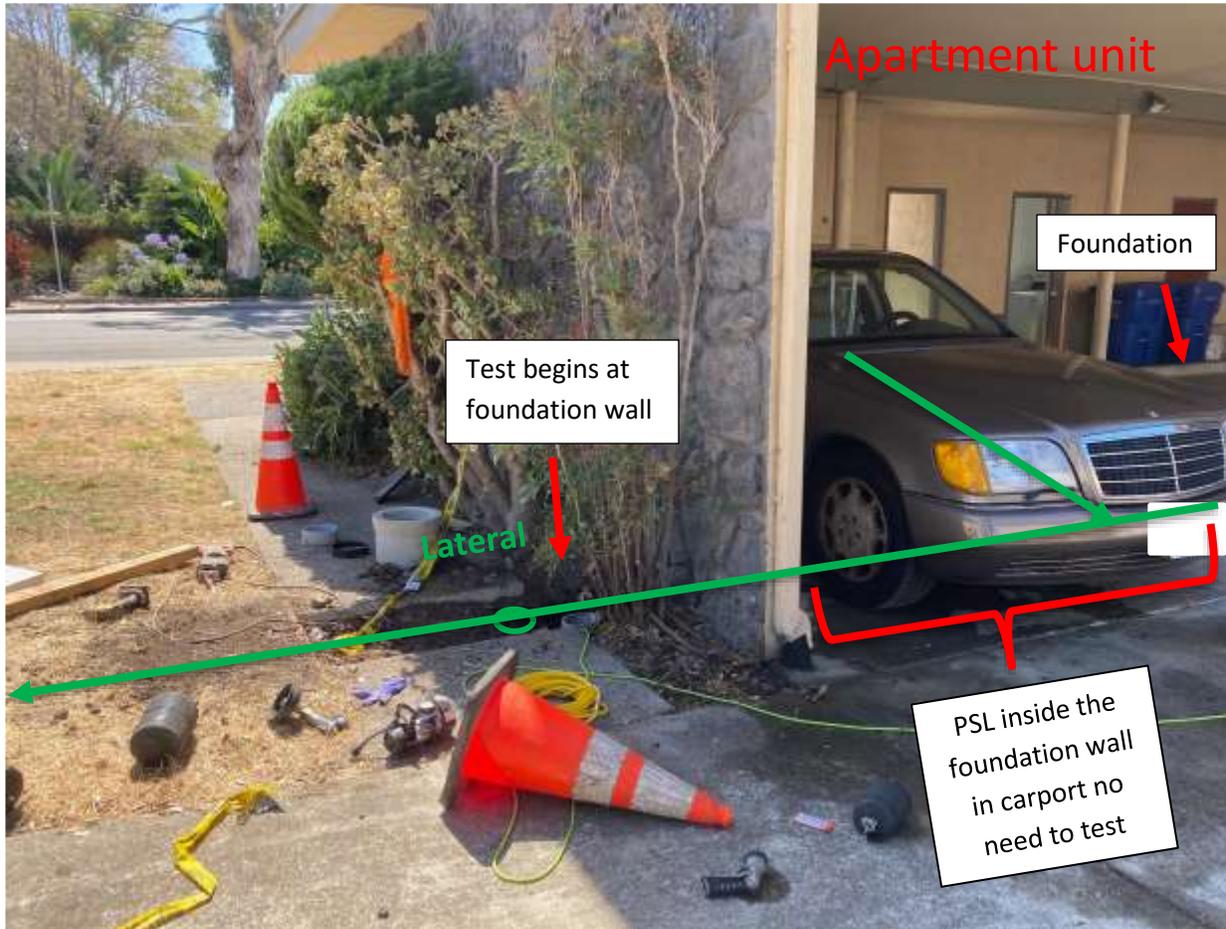
The PSL test is required from building wall/foundation footing, includes the segment under carport.



Scenario 7b:

Lateral under an inhabitable floor, with foundation setbacks to the back of carport, passes and exits the building through side foundation wall.

The PSL test is required from side building/foundation wall; the segment under carport does not need to be tested.



Scenario 8:

Lateral exits the building at the *garage* entrance; there is a metal gate but no wall.

The entire length of PSL shown in green would be required to test.



Scenario 9:

Lateral runs under an impermeable walkway/balcony, parallel to building wall.

The entire length of PSL shown in green is required to test.



Scenario 10:

Lateral runs parallel to foundation with stair footings in proximity.

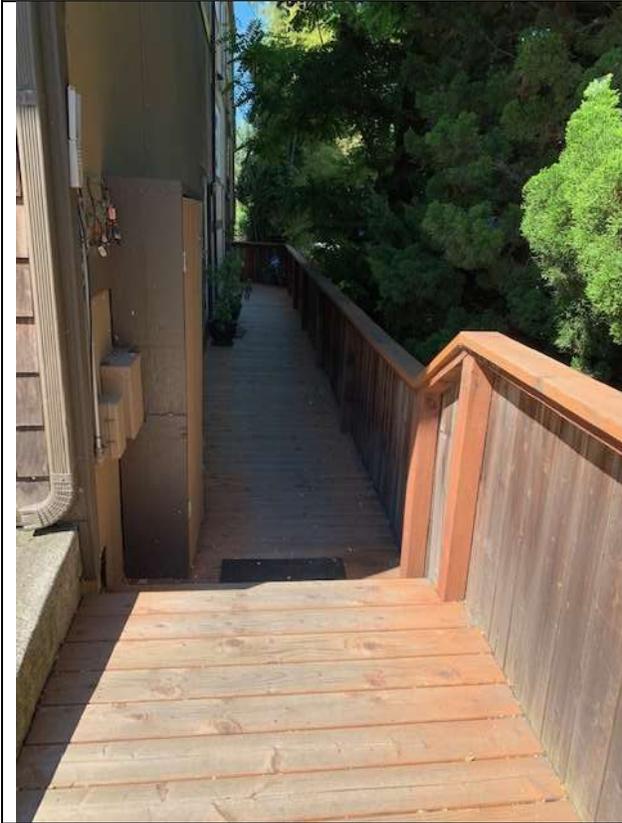
The entire length of PSL is required to test.



Scenario 11:

Lateral under a permeable patio walkway, runs parallel to foundation.

The entire length of PSL is required to test.



Scenario 12:

Lateral runs under a deck.

The entire length of underground PSL is required to test.



Scenario 13:

Lateral runs under a permeable handicap ramp.

The entire length of underground PSL is required to test.

