This document is intended to provide general information about what to expect during construction. This book is not comprehensive and may not include all equipment or construction situations.
Water and Wastewater Terms

WATER

Service Lines are the pipe between the water main under the street and the water meter. Sizes are ¾-inch or 1-inch in diameter at the meter box.

Water Mains (also distribution mains) are the pipes under the street that serve immediate customers and neighborhoods. Sizes range 4 to 12-inch diameter pipe along public streets or appropriate rights-of-way used for distributing water to individual customers.

Transmission Main are the pipes under the street that serve several neighborhoods and zip codes. Sizes range from 16-inches in diameter to 72-inches.

WASTEWATER

Laterals convey wastewater (sewage) from an individual building to a gravity sewer pipe in the road right of way or a Charlotte Water easement.

Manholes are the access points for inspecting and maintaining wastewater pipes.

Low Pressure Sanitary Sewer (LPSS) help push wastewater away from properties near steep and uneven topography (usually near lakes and creeks). Properties with this special need also have special maintenance needs as well.

Trunk receives waste from laterals and conveys wastewater under the street or behind buildings along easements.

Interceptor is a large pipe that gathers wastewater from other trunks or collector pipes to convey to a wastewater treatment plant. Sizes range from 8-inches in diameter to 30-inches.

Relief Sewer is a large pipe to assist existing interceptor when flows are reaching capacity. These pipes help prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) especially during heavy rain events. Sizes range from 12-inches in diameter to 78-inches.

Force Main & Pump Stations (also known as lift stations) pump neighborhood(s) wastewater from one creek/drainage basin to another through force mains to gravity flow sewer lines so that it can be conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant.
Community Investment Plan or Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
Projects identified and budgeted through Community Investment Plan. These include projects to serve growing service areas, enhancements at water and wastewater treatment plants and other facilities, and to reline/replace old pipes. Size of equipment and construction zones will vary.

Pipe Replacement
Replacing service lines/pipes (between pipe under the street to water meter) to reduce future leaks/repairs due to age. Typical construction zone is a few street blocks.

Water Rehabilitation
Crews clean inside of 50+ year old pipe in oldest neighborhoods. A temporary above ground drinking water pipe may be installed. Above ground water pipes serve customers while the water pipe under the street is cleaned and relined with an epoxy solution. All pipes are tested for water quality. Typical construction area is several street blocks.
Wastewater Rehabilitation
Crews clean inside pipe and install a sock-like lining inside an existing pipe through manholes. Construction area may be in street or backyards.

Crew installing new lining in wastewater pipe.

Drinking water installation for a new neighborhood.

Manhole and wastewater pipe installation for apartment complex.

Developer ‘Donated’ Projects (Installation Development Services, IDS)
Developers install new water and wastewater pipes and then donate to CLTWater. CLTWater inspects pipe installation and tests pipes.
New Service Tap, Street Main Extension
Customers currently on well, septic, or developing a vacant lot can apply for water or wastewater service if it is within 1,000 feet of property. It may take several weeks or months to connect to an existing pipe. It may take months or years to extend pipes to property after application depending on existing infrastructure location and required permits.
WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE CONSTRUCTION?

Surveying
Survey crews determine the required depth for pipes by calculating the elevations in the area. Stakes, brightly colored flagging, and paint marks may appear in your yard or on the street after a survey crew has worked.

Smoke Testing
Crews may blow smoke into wastewater pipes to identify potential pipe cracks (where smoke escapes). Customers will be notified in advance.

Soil Boring
Subcontractors may conduct subsurface investigations (also known as test pit or soft dig) to assess existing utilities as well as soil and rock conditions along the pipe alignment.

Locates (Spray Painting)
Utilities spray paint where fiber optic, gas, and water pipes to inform contractors before they dig.
Silt Fence

Silt fencing prevents soil/sediment from washing away.

Fencing

Security and privacy fencing may be installed.

Ribbons, Stakes, & Spray Paint

The project area will have various markings along the pipe alignment. Trees may be labeled differently. Please talk to the project manager or inspector to confirm what markings may mean for the project.

Clearing

The easement and temporary construction easement will be cleared of trees (with some exceptions) and restored to grass after pipe installation. CLTWater will preserve trees if possible.

Easement

The easement for a project will vary based on size of pipe, required depth, and other factors.
PIPE DELIVERY AND STORAGE IN EASEMENTS AND ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Pipe, equipment, soil and other materials are stored in the construction easement or road right-of-way.

24-inch wastewater pipe being delivered to a staging area.

Soil in the road right-of-way.

48-inch drinking water pipe delivered to a construction area.

Manholes in road right-of-way beside construction area.

6-inch cast iron pipe (CIP) at a drinking water replacement project staged beside road.
WHAT CONSTRUCTION LOOKS LIKE

Construction Zone

Construction zones will be large enough for excavators and dump trucks to move.

Asphalt Cutter & Impact Hammer

Equipment used to break or cut asphalt so crews can uncover the pipe.

Trackhoe & Backhoe

Excavators use a bucket on a hinged boom to remove dirt in middle of road for new 36-inch pipe. Crews using a backhoe at a water pipe rehabilitation project.
WHAT CONSTRUCTION LOOKS LIKE

Hand Dig Utility Conflicts

Crews may slowly hand dig around pipes, fiber optic, and gas lines to prevent damage or service outages.

Inspectors

CLTWater inspectors will verify that pipes are installed according to design and assist customers.

Trench Box

Trench boxes protect workers from cave-ins while installing, inspecting, or replacing pipes in the trench.

Dump Truck

Several dump trucks may assist with construction to remove and add soil, gravel, etc.
WASTEWATER PIPE CONSTRUCTION

Large Equipment

24-inch wastewater pipe project under a street.

Creek Crossing

Contractors may create a safe creek crossing for equipment. Large pipes keep the creek flowing underneath.

Manholes

Manholes vary in size depending on the amount of wastewater a community creates.
**Drinking Water Pipe Construction**

**Valves**

Crews may use drinking water valves to temporarily turn off water to a pipe.

**Flushing**

Crews may flow hydrants to test or maintain water quality.

**Meter Box Installation**

A new water service installation includes: pipe near the property line, meter, and meter box. The property owner is responsible for connecting plumbing to tailpiece leaving the meter box.

**Fire Hydrant**

Fire hydrants are installed to provide emergency water service.
6-inch drinking water pipe replacement project including new service pipes to each water meter.

24-inch drinking water pipe installation.

72-inch drinking water pipe to serve zip codes.
WHAT TUNNELLING LOOKS LIKE

CLTWater may tunnel under major roads to reduce lane closures. Tunneling requires entry and exit pits. Tunneling may take several months to complete pipe installation.

Tunnel Boring Machine tunneling under major road for a large wastewater project.

Bore pit at Park Road Park to tunnel under Park Road.

Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)

Some tunnel boring machines uses disc cutters to fracture rock.
Cranes may be required to move equipment and dirt.

Some boring operations may be smaller to go under a large tree or driveway.

The pipe is installed inside a metal casing to protect the pipe, the street, and other infrastructure above the tunnel.

View inside the tunnel looking at the entry pit.
WHAT ROCK BLASTING LOOKS LIKE

BLasting is a standard construction procedure to remove rock when other methods are not working.

Holes are drilled to insert the dynamite charges into the rock.

Heavy mats (right picture) are placed on the blasting area to prevent flying debris.

Residents may hear a warning horn, a muffled noise, and slight vibration or rumble similar to a slammed door or thunder.

CLTWater may contact customers to conduct a pre-blast survey to record building details.

A seismograph monitor records blast vibrations to verify they are within safe specifications.
WHAT RESTORATION LOOKS LIKE

Yard Restoration
CLTWater will restore most areas with grass seed and straw.

Temporary Road Restoration
Crews may patch the road to reopen and later repave or complete restoration efforts after the pipe installation is complete.

Backfill Tamping with Jumping Jack and Soil Compactor
Devices apply stress to soil causing densification as air is displaced from the pore between soil grains.
WHAT RESTORATION LOOKS LIKE

Pavement Milling Equipment

Subcontractors or Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) Street Maintenance may repave a larger area than the trench after the project is complete.

One Year Warranty

All construction and restoration by CLTWater contractors includes a one year warranty.

During Construction & After Restoration

In some cases the whole street may be repaved.
**VISIBLE STRUCTURES**

**Water Sampling Station**

The purpose is to monitor quality of water within the system.

**Auto-Flusher**

Auto-flushers are used on dead ends or locations to flow water where water flow isn't optimal to maintain excellent water quality.

**Fire Hydrant**

Fire hydrants are installed within 1,000 feet of every existing property served by Charlotte Water.

**Manholes**

Manholes are installed flush with grass if in a maintained yard. If the manhole is installed in a floodplain, it may have a vent coming out of it or may be raised.
PIPE MATERIALS

Concrete (Prestressed Concrete Cylinder Pipe, Concrete Cylinder Pipe, and Reinforced Concrete Pipe) – durable older pipe.

Cast Iron (CIP) & Ductile Iron (DIP) – frequently used for large transmission and distribution mains. Ductile iron pipe is 95% recycled material.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) – largely used for small pipe projects. Roughly 50% of the drinking water system is PVC pipe. Wastewater pipe may be blue or green.

Brass - CLTWater uses brass connections between meter and pipe under the street.

Galvanized – CLTWater is proactively replacing small diameter galvanized pipe before leaks occur due to age.

Vitrified clay pipe (VCP) - Primarily used for gravity-flow sanitary sewer pipes.
High-Density Polyethylene Pipe (HDPE) - HDPE is very resistant to corrosion and flexible. If project is HDPE, expect to see very long pipe sections stretched over several properties.

**WHAT TYPE OF PLUMBING DO I HAVE?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Installed</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>1900s -1986</td>
<td>Dull gray, easily scratched surface</td>
<td>Although banned in 1986, installation of lead pipes was <strong>very rare</strong> in Mecklenburg County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>1930s-present</td>
<td>Reddish (like a penny) to dark brown or green</td>
<td>Long lifespan, may contain lead-based solder if home is pre-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanized Steel</td>
<td>1930s – 1980s</td>
<td>Gray or metallic</td>
<td>May rust internally and externally, limited lifespan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)</td>
<td>1950s-present</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Doesn't corrode or rust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyethylene (PEX)</td>
<td>1990s-present</td>
<td>Many colors (typically red and blue for hot and cold water supply lines)</td>
<td>Flexible to install</td>
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