

Co-op Coalition Survey: Pipe Scans

Thanks to the 11 members who responded to this survey. Following is the original question and the table of responses. It appears that there are a handful of companies who have done this work for co-ops (highlighted, below) , they all get good grades. While some respondents did not use cameras or other technology to investigate their pipes, they either are interested in learning more or explained what they do to update/replace their pipes.

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-----Original Message-----

From: CooperativesDC <CooperativesDC@aol.com>
 To: CooperativesDC <CooperativesDC@aol.com>
 Sent: Sun, Nov 20, 2016 2:27 pm
 Subject: CHC Co-op Survey: Plumbing Pipe Scans (Due 12-2-2016)

A Coalition member needs your help; their request for assistance follows. I will share the results a few days after the survey closes on Friday, December 2, at 5pm. Thanks for helping one another out!

Mike O'Dell, Director
 DC Cooperative Housing Coalition

My coop would like to ask our fellow coops for some help. We're looking for input on the following question:

Have you inspected your building's plumbing pipes with camera or other technology to locate leaks or potential leaks? Can you recommend a company to do such an inspection?

Thanks for any help you can give!

<100 units	We have never done this, but will be interested in what you learn.
<100 units	We have not. However, as part of our budget and renovation policy, each time a member does renovations, and accesses the stack, we Update the plumbing stack.
<100 units	We have not done a scan with a camera. We pretty much repair leaks as they come up: any pipes that supply water or heat to the building or drain water for the whole building is the Coop's responsibility; any pipe that only goes to particular units (like pipes that go from the main water supply to a fridge or a dish water) is the shareholder's. We get Thomas Plumbing when we're not sure whose responsibility it is. They do the diagnostics and help determine the responsibility: the Coop pays if it is a common pipe; the shareholder pays for the diagnostics if it's an individual pipe but after that, the shareholder can hire any licensed plumber for the repair. We have Thomas Plumbing as our default plumber because they really know our building (which dates back to the 1920s) and we have had good experience with them by and large. But we would be interested in finding out more about the camera-scanning diagnostics.
<100 units	No we have never done such an inspection and have no recommendations.

<100 units	We have not made such an inspection. We have an old infrastructure and have opportunistically replaced pipes when unit renovations have been done.
<100 units	[Our co-op] has not used such technology. However, we would be very interested in learning what others have done, and how they've been able to use the results.
Project Manager of buildings with less than 100 units	As a PM, I've had it done numerous times when snaking alone did not solve the problem, though since it is more expensive and snaking clears the line most of the time, that is always my first step. In general, I use DH Stevens Plumbing and Maryland Plumbing for these jobs.
100+ units	TVIE 410-741-0399. Very reasonable.
100+ units	We have done a limited amount of this work at [our co-op]; Advanced Plumbing in Rockville MD. did this for us at a very affordable rate (301) 933-7331
100+ units	We've used Magnolia Plumbing as well as Steven's Plumbing, and they both did a great job. With Steven's, ask for Mike Calomeris. He's super helpful, and makes sure that property managers are educated on their findings.
100+ units	Magnolia Plumbing and All Season Plumbing. We have had them both out in the past 6 months.