

CHAPTER 15
PLUMBING CODE

- 15.01 State Regulations Adopted
- 15.02 Plumbing Defined
- 15.03 Plumbing Inspector
- 15.04 Plumbing Permits
- 15.05 Fees
- 15.06 Plumbers To Be Licensed
- 15.07 Inspection of Work
- 15.08 Clear Waters
- 15.09 Grease Separators
- 15.10 Street Excavations
- 15.11 Drain For Each Building
- 15.12 Old Drain or Pipe
- 15.13 Obstructed Drain
- 15.14 Protection of Pipes
- 15.15 Protection of Sewers and Drains
- 15.16 Cross-Connections Regulated
- 15.17 Non-Assumption of Liability
- 15.20 Penalty

15.01 STATE REGULATIONS ADOPTED. (1) ADOPTED BY REFERENCE. Chapter 145, Wis. Stats., and the State Plumbing Code, Wis. Adm. Code COMM 81 to 85 are adopted and, by reference, made a part of this chapter with the same force and effect as though set out in full. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of such regulations shall constitute a violation of this chapter, punishable according to the penalties provided herein.

- (2) TO BE ON FILE. A copy of the State Plumbing Code shall be on file in the office of the Plumbing Inspector.

15.02 PLUMBING DEFINED. In this chapter, “plumbing” means and includes the following:

- (1) All piping, fixtures, appliances, equipment, devices and appurtenances in connection with the water supply, water distribution and drainage systems, including hot water storage tanks, water softeners and water heaters connected with such water and drainage systems, and the installation thereof.
- (2) The construction, connection or installation of any drain or waste piping system from the outside, or proposed outside, foundation walls of any building to the mains or other sewerage system terminal within bounds of or beneath an area subject to easement for highway purposes, including private domestic sewage treatment and disposal systems, and the alteration of any such systems, drains or waste piping.
- (3) The water service piping from the outside or proposed outside foundation walls of any building to the fire protection main or other water utility service terminal within bounds of or beneath an area subject to easement for highway purposes and its connections.
- (4) The water pressure systems other than municipal systems as provided in Ch. 144, Wis. Stats.
- (5) A plumbing and drainage system so designed and vent piping so installed as to keep the air within the system in free circulation and movement; to prevent, with a margin of safety, unequal air pressures of such force as might blow, siphon or affect trap seals or retard the discharge from plumbing fixtures or permit sewer air to escape into the building; to prohibit contamination or pollution of any potable water supply and distribution system; and to provide an adequate supply of water to properly serve, cleanse and operate all fixtures, equipment, appurtenances and appliances served by the plumbing system.

15.03 PLUMBING INSPECTOR. (1) APPOINTMENT. See sec. 1.03 of this Code.

- (2) POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) General. The Plumbing Inspector shall be certified by the Department of Commerce. The Plumbing Inspector shall enforce all provisions of this chapter and all other State and City provisions relating to the construction installation, alteration and repair of all plumbing within the City and shall make such inspections, perform such tests and issue such orders as may be necessary for such enforcement. In the discharge of his duties, the Plumbing Inspector or his authorized agent may enter any building during reasonable hours for the purpose of inspection.

- (b) Permits. The Plumbing Inspector shall take applications and issue to qualified applicants or master plumbers who submit their license number on the permit application permits as required for all work done under this chapter and shall maintain suitable records of the permits issued.
- (c) Reports. 1. To Council. The Plumbing Inspector shall make such reports to the Council as it may require concerning the activities of his office.
 - 2. To the Department of Commerce. The Plumbing Inspector shall make such reports to the Department of Commerce as are required under §145.04(3), Wis. Stats.
- (d) Stop Work Orders. The Plumbing Inspector may order work stopped on the construction, installation, alteration or repair of plumbing when such work is being done in violation of this chapter. Work so stopped shall not be resumed except on written permission of the Plumbing Inspector, provided that if the stop work order is an oral one, it shall be followed by a written order within a reasonable period of time.

15.04 PLUMBING PERMITS. (1) **REQUIRED.** No work contemplated by this chapter shall be started until a permit therefor has been obtained from the Plumbing Inspector or his authorized agent.

- (2) **APPLICATION.** The application shall be in writing upon forms provided by the Plumbing Inspector, which may be obtained at the office of the City Clerk, and shall include the name of the owner and the description of the property on which the work is to be done, and all plumbing to be installed, along with such pertinent information as the Plumbing Inspector may require.
- (3) **ISSUANCE; TERM.** When the Plumbing Inspector is satisfied that the work proposed by the applicant can be done in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, and after the appropriate fees have been paid to him, he shall issue the permit. Such permit shall be good for the continuous performance of the work named thereon. A permit shall automatically expire if work has not been commenced within 90 days of the date of issuance or when work ceases for a period of 90 days without good and reasonable cause for same and shall automatically expire on completion of the work for which it was issued; provided the Plumbing Inspector may, upon notice, suspend or revoke such permit for violation of the provisions of this chapter.
- (4) **RESPONSIBILITY.** It shall be the responsibility of the installer or contractor to determine if a permit is required and to obtain the same prior to commencing work.
- (5) **FIXTURE INSTALLATION REQUIRING PERMIT.** A permit is required when any additional fixtures are installed or when the plumbing system is moved to another part of the building and remodeled. However, no permit is required when a fixture is replaced by a new one and no new pipe or vent is changed or added.
- (6) **RESTRICTIONS ON ISSUANCE.** (a) No plumbing permit shall be issued to any person who is in violation of this chapter until such violation has been corrected.

- (b) No plumbing permit shall be issued to any person against whom an order issued by the Plumbing Inspector is pending.
- (7) **FAILURE TO ISSUE; SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION.** Any person directly interested who is aggrieved by the decision of the Plumbing Inspector to refuse to issue a permit or to suspend or revoke such permit may, within 20 days, appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

15.05 FEES. See sec. 14.07 of this Code. The fees shall be doubled for any work commenced prior to obtaining a permit.

15.06 PLUMBERS TO BE LICENSED. (1) **GENERAL.** All plumbing work shall be done only by a plumber licensed by the State for such work, or his employees.

- (2) **EXCEPTION.** The owner-occupant of a single-family residence may perform plumbing work in his own home upon obtaining a permit pursuant to sec. 15.04 of this chapter.

15.07 INSPECTION OF WORK. The permittee or an authorized representative shall, in writing or orally, request inspections by the Plumbing Inspector at appropriate times required for the enforcement of this chapter. The Plumbing Inspector shall perform the requested inspection within 48 hours after notification, except the final inspection. The work shall not proceed beyond the point of inspection until the inspection has been completed, except if inspection has not taken place within 48 hours of notification, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, unless otherwise agreed upon between the permittee and the Plumbing Inspector.

15.08 CLEAR WATERS. (1) **DISCHARGE.** No person shall cause, allow or permit any roof drain, surface drain, subsoil drain, drain from any mechanical device, gutter, ditch, pipe, conduit, sump pump or any other object or thing used for the purposes of collecting, conducting, transporting, diverting, draining or discharging clear water from any part of any private premises owned or occupied by said person to discharge into a sanitary sewer.

- (2) **NUISANCE.** The discharge into a sanitary sewer from any drain enumerated in sub. (1) above is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and a hazard to the health, safety and well being of the residents of the City and to the protection of property.
- (3) **GROUND WATER.** Where deemed necessary by the Plumbing Inspector, every dwelling shall have a sump pump installed for the purpose of discharging clear waters from foundation drains and ground infiltration and, where the building is not serviced by a storm sewer, shall either discharge into an underground conduit leading to a drainage ditch, gutter or dry well, or shall discharge onto the ground surface in such other manner as will not constitute a nuisance as defined herein. All clear water shall be discharged to the rear of the lot unless the Building Inspector approved another location.
- (4) **CATCH BASINS AND RECEPTACLES.** See Wis. Adm. Code COMM 82.36.
- (5) **STORM SEWER LATERAL.** Where municipal storm sewers are provided and it is deemed necessary by the property owner and/or the City to discharge clear waters from a parcel of land, a storm sewer lateral shall be installed and connected to the storm sewer main at the expense of the owner.

- (6) **CONDUCTING TESTS.** If the Director of Public Works or his designated agent suspects an illegal clear water discharge, as defined by this chapter or by any other applicable provision of the Wisconsin Administrative Code as it may, from time to time, be amended, he may, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, enter the private premises where such illegal clear water discharge is suspected and conduct appropriate tests to determine whether such suspected illegal clear water discharge actually exists.
- (7) **COMPLIANCE AND PENALTY.** Any person determined to be in violation of any provision of this section shall be given a written notice stating the nature of such violation and providing a reasonable time limit for the satisfactory correction thereof. Any person who shall continue any violation beyond the forgoing time limits shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to the penalties provided in sec. 25.04 of this Code.

15.09 GREASE SEPARATORS. Grease catch basins or separators of a capacity based upon the temperature and the amount of the water tributary shall be installed wherever kitchen or other greasy wastes from hotels, restaurants, club houses, boarding houses, public or private institutions, hospitals or similar places are discharged into a public sewer or private sewage disposal system. Garbage disposal units shall not be tributary to grease catch basins or interceptors.

15.10 STREET EXCAVATIONS. See ch. 8 of this Code.

15.11 DRAIN FOR EACH BUILDING. Whenever practical, the sanitary system and drainage system of each dwelling or building must be separately or independently connected with the street sewer except, where a building stands in the rear of another on the same lot, the drain from the front building may be extended to the rear building and the whole will be considered as one drain.

15.12 OLD DRAIN OR PIPE. Whenever necessary to disturb a drain or pipe in actual use, the same shall not be obstructed or disconnected without special permission of the Plumbing Inspector. No person shall make any new connections or extensions to an old drain or pipe without permission of the Plumbing Inspector.

15.13 OBSTRUCTED DRAIN. In all cases where any sanitary system or other drain pipe to be laid is obstructed by water, gas, steam, pipe or conduit, the decision to pass over or under the obstruction or of the raising or lowering the obstruction so as to permit the construction and installation of such pipe shall be made by the Director of Public Works.

15.14 PROTECTION OF PIPES. All water, sewer, drain, gas, conduits or other pipes must be protected to the satisfaction of the Plumbing Inspector from injury by frost or settling.

15.15 PROTECTION OF SEWERS AND DRAINS. No person shall permit any earth, sand or solid materials to enter any main sewer during progress of any work in laying drains and sewers or in making alterations, extensions or repairs to the same, or in connecting such drains or sewers to the sewer main of the City.

15.16 CROSS-CONNECTIONS REGULATED. See ch. 13 of this Code.

15.17 NON-ASSUMPTION OF LIABILITY. This chapter shall not be considered as assuming any liability on the part of the City or any official or employe thereof for damages to

anyone injured or for any property destroyed by any defect in any building or equipment, or in any plumbing or electric wiring or equipment.

15.20 PENALTY. Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter or any order, rule or regulation thereunder shall be subject to a penalty as provided in sec. 25.04 of this Code.