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PLUMBING REQUIREMENTS

This handout is a compilation of the standards requirements based on the State Plumbing Code and City Ordinance for projects of this type. This information sheet does not contain all of the specific codes for construction and should only be used as a guide. The permit applicant is responsible for meeting all code requirements applicable to each project.

PERMITS: A building permit is required for additions, interior remodel of existing structures and to finish all single family basements. The building permit does not cover modifications to existing or roughed-in plumbing, heating or electrical systems. Additional permits will be required for these additional aspects of construction. The applicant for said permits will be responsible to assure compliance with all applicable codes.

INSPECTIONS: New plumbing systems and parts of existing systems which have been altered, extended or repaired shall be inspected and tested by the Plumbing Inspector, (*the testing is done by the plumbing contractor and witnessed by the inspector*), to ensure compliance with all the requirements of the code and the installation and construction of the system in accordance with the approved plan and the permit, except that testing may be waived for work which does not include addition to, replacement, alteration, or relocation of any water supply, drainage, or vent piping. All the piping shall be tested. After the plumbing fixtures have been set, and before the systems is out to use, the system shall be given a final inspection and test by the Plumbing Inspector.

COVERING OF WORK: No building drainage or plumbing system or part thereof shall be covered until it has been inspected, tested and approved. If any building drainage or plumbing system or part thereof is covered before being regularly inspected, tested and approved, it shall be uncovered upon the direction of the Inspector.

TESTING: The air tests shall be applied to the plumbing drainage system in its entirety or in sections. Sections which are found satisfactory need not be retested after completion of the entire system unless considered necessary by the Plumbing Inspector.

ROUGH PLUMBING: Except for outside leaders and perforated or open drain tile, the piping, plumbing drainage and venting systems shall be air test upon completion of the rough piping. The air test shall be made by attaching the air compressor or testing apparatus to any suitable openings, and closing all other inlets and outlets to the system by means of proper testing plugs. Air shall be forced into the system until there is uniform pressure of five pounds per square inch on the portion of the system being tested. The pressure shall remain constant for 15 minutes without the addition of air.

FINISHED PLUMBING: After the plumbing fixtures have been set and their traps filled with water, their connections shall be tested and proven gas and water tight by plugging the stack openings on the roof and the building drain where it leaves the building, and air introduced into the system equal to the pressure of a one inch water column. Such pressure shall remain constant for the period of inspection without the introduction of additional air.

PLASTIC PIPE PROTECTION: All plastic and copper pipe and tubing passing through studs or plates that are within one and one-fourth inches of the outside of the stud or plate must be protected by the provision of 1/16 inch or 0.060 mild steel plates attached to the outside of the stud or plate, or equivalent protection.

PRIMER: Solvent weld joints in PVC and CPVC pipe must include use of primer of contrasting color to the pipe and cement. Primers must comply with the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Standard Number 14. Mixing of PVC (white) and ABS (black) piping is not allowed.

SUPPORT: Support plastic pipe at 32-inch intervals except where conveying waste from dishwasher or similar hot water wastes it shall be supported on continuous metal or wood strips for its entire length.

BUILDING VALVE: Each building water service shall be provided with a gate valve or other full-way valve located inside the building near the point that the water service enters.

METER VALVE: A gate valve or other full-way valve shall be installed in the line on the discharge side of each water meter. The valve shall not be less in size than the building water supply. IT SHALL BE UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO OBSTRUCT A METER SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE READING OR REPAIR THEREOF OR TO MISREAD OR TAMPER WITH ANY METER SO AS TO AVOID JUST CHARGES FOR WATER. City Code 13-209.

WATER HEATING EQUIPMENT VALVE: The cold water branch to each hot water storage tank or water heater shall be provided with a full-way valve located near equipment. Each tank or heater shall be equipped with an approved automatic relief valve.

VALVES TO BE ACCESSIBLE: All water supply control valves shall be placed so as to be accessible.

CONTROL VALVE DESIGN: Except in single fixtures, control valves on all water lines shall be full-way type and the same size as the line on which they are installed.

ACCESS TO WATER HEATERS: Every water heater installation shall be readily accessible for inspection, repair or replacement. The appliance space shall be provided with an opening or doorway of sufficient size to provide such access.

FIXTURES: Fixtures must be set level and in proper alignment with reference to adjacent walls. No water closet may be set closer than 15 inches from its center to any side wall or partition or closer than 30 inches, center to center, between toilets. At least a 24 inch clearance must be provided in front of water closet.

ANTI-SCALD DEVICES: A shower or combination shower-bath in a new or remodeled installation must be equipped with an anti-scald type shower control valve. The valve must be of the thermostatic or pressure-balancing type in accordance with ANSI/AASSE standard 1016-90.

ACCESS PANELS: Fixtures having concealed slip joint connections shall be provided with an access panel or utility space or other convenient access so arranged as to make the slip joint connections accessible for inspection and repair.

LAWN-IRRIGATION, HAND HELD SHOWERS, HOSE BIBS, ECT. A portable water system shall be protected against back-flow and back-siphon age by providing and maintaining at each outlet:

- A. An air gap as specified herein between the potable water outlet and the flood level rim of the fixture it supplies or between the outlet and any other source of contamination;
- B. A back-flow preventer device or assembly to prevent the drawing of contamination into the potable water system.

This information is a guide to the most common questions and problems. It is not intended nor shall it be considered a complete set of requirements.