

# Chapter 15

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## PLUMBING CODE

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### 15.01 State Regulations Adopted

- (1) Adopted By Reference -

Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 145, the State Plumbing Code, CH. H62, Wis. Adm. Code; and Chs. H61 and H63, Wis. Adm. Code, 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 offices of the Plumbing Supervisor and the City Clerk.

### 15.02 Plumbing Defined

In this chapter, "plumbing" means and includes:

- (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 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 Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 144.
- (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 cross-connection, contamination or pollution of the potable water supply and distribution systems; 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 Supervisor

- (1) Appointment, Term and Compensation -

The City Council shall appoint a Plumbing Supervisor, along with such other plumbing inspectors as it deems necessary, who shall be a licensed plumber or practical plumber,

skilled sanitarian or competent person familiar with plumbing and who, unless under civil service, shall serve for a four- (4-) year term, subject to removal for just cause, and whose compensation shall be as fixed by the Council from time to time.

(2) Duties and Authority -

(a) General -

The Plumbing Supervisor 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.

(b) Authority to Enter Premises -

1. In the discharge of his duties, the Plumbing Supervisor or his authorized agent may enter any building, upon presentation of the proper credentials, during reasonable hours for the purpose of inspection and may require the production of any permit or license required hereunder. No person shall interfere with the Supervisor or his authorized agent while in the performance of his duties; and any person so interfering shall be in violation of this chapter and subject to a penalty as provided by Section 15.15.
2. If consent to entry to personal or real properties, which are not public buildings, or to portions of public buildings, which are not open to the public, for inspection purposes has been denied, the Plumbing Supervisor shall obtain a special inspection warrant under Wisconsin Statute §§ 66.0119 and 66.0119(3).

(c) Permits -

The Plumbing Supervisor or his authorized agent shall prepare suitable forms for permit applications and permits, shall take applications and issue to qualified applicants permits as required for all work contemplated by this chapter and shall maintain suitable records of the permits issues. He shall weekly submit permit fees collected by his office to the City Treasurer.

(d) Records and Reports -

1. To the City Council -

The Plumbing Supervisor shall keep in his office a daily record of all the transactions of his office, including permits issued and fees received, and shall make such reports thereon to the City Council as it may require.

2. To the Department of Health and Social Services -

The Plumbing Supervisor shall make such reports to the Department of Health and Social Services as are required under Wisconsin Statute § 145.04(3).

3. Record of Special Locations -

The Plumbing Supervisor shall keep a record of all sewer and water connections and shall make maps showing the locations of the same and the positions of all

house drains, connections, junctions and other data necessary for the efficient operation of his office.

(e) Stop Work Orders -

The Plumbing Supervisor 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 with written permission of the Plumbing Supervisor, provided 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 Supervisor, or his authorized agent, provided no permit shall be required for minor repairs to faucets or the removal of stoppages in soil and waste pipes.

(2) Application -

The application shall be in writing upon forms which the Plumbing Supervisor shall provide and shall include the name of the owner and the description of the property on which the work is to be done, along with such pertinent information as the Plumbing Supervisor may require, and shall state that the property owner and the applicant will be bound by and subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(3) Issuance, Term, Suspension and Revocation -

When the Plumbing Supervisor 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 when work ceases for a period of sixty (60) 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 Supervisor may, upon notice, suspend or revoke such permit for violation of the provisions of this chapter.

(4) 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 Supervisor is pending, provided this restriction may be waived by the Plumbing Supervisor.

(5) Appeals for Failure to Issue, Suspension and Revocation -

Any person directly interested who is aggrieved by the decision of the Plumbing Supervisor to refuse to issue a permit or to suspend or revoke such permit or to order work stopped

under Section 15.03, (2), (e), may obtain review of such determination under Chapter 24 of this Municipal Code.

### **15.05 Plumbers to Be Licensed**

All plumbing work shall be done only by a plumber licensed by the State for such work, provided a property owner may make repairs or installations in a single-family building owned and occupied by him as his home if a permit therefor is issued and the work is done in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

### **15.06 Registration of Plumbers**

(1) To Be On File -

All master plumbers engaged in the business of plumbing in the City and all journeymen plumbers and apprentice plumbers working at the plumbing trade in the City shall register with the Plumbing Supervisor, who shall keep such registration on file in his office.

(2) Information to Be Supplied -

Such registration shall consist of the full name and address, license number and current receipt number of each master or journeyman licensee. For an apprentice, the year of apprenticeship and the shop to which he is indentured shall be indicated.

(3) Registration Requirements Limited -

The purpose of this section is solely to provide for the administration of state licensing requirements and this chapter. No fee shall be charged for any plumber's registration, nor shall any information other than that specified in subparagraph (2) of this section be required.

### **15.07 Water Service Materials**

All water pipes or lines laid underground shall be of type K copper tubing, extra heavy lead, cast iron water main pipe type C, or other equal of approved materials.

### **15.08 Street Openings**

(1) Restricted -

No openings in the streets, alleys or other public ways to install plumbing shall be permitted when the ground is frozen, except when making repairs to installations or other emergencies. In opening any street or public way, all materials for paving or ballasting shall be removed with the least possible injury or loss and, together with the excavated materials from trenches, shall be placed where the least practicable inconvenience to the public will be caused, and admit if free passage of water along the gutters.

(2) Protection of the Public -

All openings made in the public streets or alleys in accordance with permission given pursuant hereto shall be enclosed with sufficient barriers, and red lamps shall be maintained upon the same at night and all other necessary precautions to guard the public effectually against all accidents from the beginning to the completion of the work shall be

taken. Sewers and drains may be laid only on condition that the excavator or plumber is liable for any and all damage or damages that may result from his neglect of any necessary precaution against all accidents to persons or property of others.

(3) Replacing Materials -

In opening a trench on any street or lot, the sidewalk materials, sand, gravel and earth or whatever material is removed or penetrated, shall be replaced in precisely the same condition and relation to the remainder as it was before. All rubbish shall be removed at once, leaving the street or sidewalk in perfect repair and shall be so maintained for a period of one year thereafter. All gas, water and electric lines or conduits shall be protected from injury or settling in a manner satisfactory to the Plumbing Supervisor.

(4) Street Openings -

When any excavation is made in a permanently paved road or street, or in any road or street which is to be permanently paved, all clay or hardpan shall be removed and the excavation entirely back filled with sand or gravel, thoroughly wet and consolidated. Any tunnel dug in such road or street shall be back filled in the manner described herein and subject to the approval of the Plumbing Supervisor.

### 15.09 On-Site Waste Disposal Systems and Private Well Prohibited

To assure preservation of public health, comfort and safety and to prevent the contamination of ground water within the City, all buildings used for human habitation within the City shall be connected to the sanitary sewer system and to the municipal water system of the City and no private on-site sewage disposal facilities or private wells for domestic use, other than as may exist on August 20, 1979, shall be permitted within the City.

### 15.10 Sanitary Backflow Prevention

(1) Application -

This section shall apply to any residential, commercial, or industrial building or structure hereafter built, enlarged, altered, moved, or demolished within the City.

(2) Sanitary Building Drain -

In this section, 'sanitary building drain' means horizontal piping within or under a building, installed below the lowest fixture or the lowest floor level from which fixtures can drain by gravity to the building sanitary sewer.

(3) Backflow Prevention Valves -

All buildings or structures covered under this section shall have backflow prevention valves (also known as floor check valves) installed on all sanitary building drains at the owner's expense, except as provided below.

(4) Application for Exception -

A property owner may apply in writing to the Plumbing Supervisor for an exception to the provisions of this section. The application must include evidence of the elevation of both the sanitary building drain and the nearest manhole to which the sanitary building drain is or will be connected. The Plumbing Supervisor may approve the exception if the

elevation of the sanitary building drain is at least two feet higher than the elevation of the nearest manhole to which the sanitary building drain is or will be connected.

**15.15 Penalty**

Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter, or any regulation, rule or order made hereunder, shall be subject to a penalty as provided in Section 25.04 of this Municipal Code.