Sinks Installed on Roof Decks or Other Exterior Locations

**Issue:**

The Philadelphia Plumbing Code appears to prohibit the installation of an external sink. Must all sinks be located inside a building?

**Solution:**

The Philadelphia Plumbing Code (PPC) states:

**SECTION P-607 FREEZING PROTECTION**

**P-607.1 New construction.** In new buildings, all soil, waste, and vent pipes above ground shall be located inside the buildings.

In this case, the issue seems to be the waste pipe from the bar sink. However, “waste pipe” as defined in the PPC reads as follows:

*Waste pipe.* Any pipe, except an individual fixture drain 12 feet or less in length, which receives the discharge of any fixture, except water closets or similar fixtures, and conveys it to the house drain, soil, or waste stack.

Given the definition, the waste pipe from an individual fixture, would be excluded from the Freezing Protection provisions of the Code for new construction.

The other sections of the PPC that apply are P-501.5 and P-605.1. Both of these sections require “protection” of the piping and trap. The protection for water supply piping would be an internal shut off valve. The protection of the trap may be through insulation and/or antifreeze additive.

Whatever method of protection of the piping is chosen, it is recommended that winterizing instructions be posted for the property owner.

**Code Sections:**

P-607 Freezing Protection
P-501.5 Trap levels and protection.
P-605 Protection of Piping

**Issued by:**

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**Disclaimer:**

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options, or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.