2021 Code Implementation
Plumbing

Department of
Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Agenda

- Implementation
- Changes to the 2021
- Local Ordinance
- What's Coming in L&I

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS/ CONCERNS TO Q&A

Department of
Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Plumbing Code Timeline

1961-2020

Philadelphia Plumbing Code

2019

Adoption of the 2018 IPC with extensive local amendment

2023

Additional Local Amendments

2025

Adoption of the 2021 IPC (carrying over past local amendments PLUS additional amendments)

Adoption of **future versions** of the IPC, as mandated by the Pa Construction Code Act

Code Adoption

2021 I-Codes Adopted By the State

(Est Sept 2025)

6-month transition

Mandatory application of I-Codes

(Est March 2026)

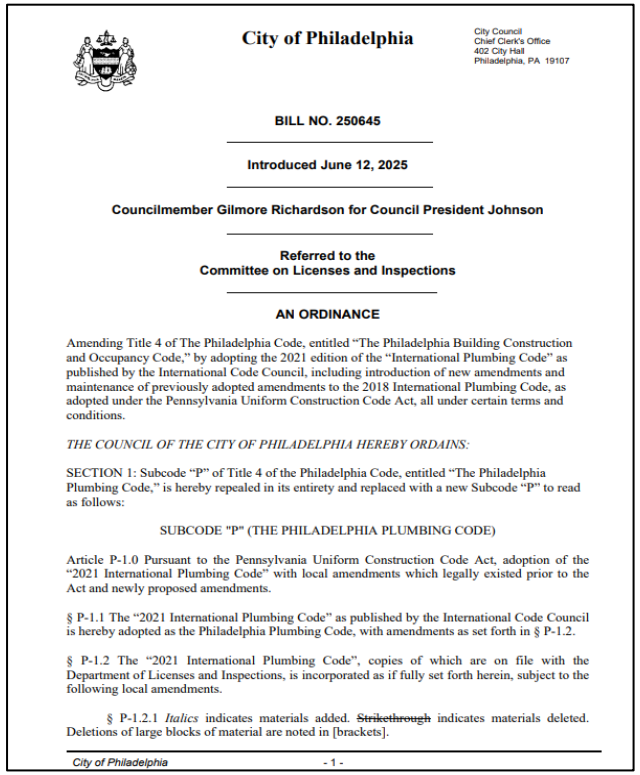
- **Applications filed may apply the 2018 or 2021 I-Codes.**

Implementation

- Once State adopts the 2021 I-Codes, a Code Bulletin will be published regarding implementation.
- Anticipate State adoption in Sept 2025 but this is wholly dependent on their timeline.
- For larger projects, the Building Permit controls expiration.
    - A Plumbing Permit will remain active as long as the Building Permit remains active.
    - See Code Bulletin A-2001: Construction Permit Expiration for Projects
- Can’t mix plumbing code editions.
- Permit Application Extensions - will only authorize one extension for RFI. More stringent rules on pick-up.

Adopting Ordinances

- Understand the ordinance format and read carefully. Adopts the full text of the 2021 I-Code and only lists changes to the Code.
- Plumbing Code Ordinance - 90-page ordinance but bulk was adopted through past ordinances.
    - Introduced June 2025, with Council hearing anticipated later this Fall.



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 250645

Introduced June 12, 2025

Councilmember Gilmore Richardson for Council President Johnson

Referred to the
Committee on Licenses and Inspections

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Title 4 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "The Philadelphia Building Construction and Occupancy Code," by adopting the 2021 edition of the "International Plumbing Code" as published by the International Code Council, including introduction of new amendments and maintenance of previously adopted amendments to the 2018 International Plumbing Code, as adopted under the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Act, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: Subcode "P" of Title 4 of the Philadelphia Code, entitled "The Philadelphia Plumbing Code," is hereby repealed in its entirety and replaced with a new Subcode "P" to read as follows:

SUBCODE "P" (THE PHILADELPHIA PLUMBING CODE)

Article P-1.0 Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Act, adoption of the "2021 International Plumbing Code" with local amendments which legally existed prior to the Act and newly proposed amendments.

§ P-1.1 The "2021 International Plumbing Code" as published by the International Code Council is hereby adopted as the Philadelphia Plumbing Code, with amendments as set forth in § P-1.2.

§ P-1.2 The "2021 International Plumbing Code", copies of which are on file with the Department of Licenses and Inspections, is incorporated as if fully set forth herein, subject to the following local amendments.

§ P-1.2.1 *Italics* indicates materials added. ~~Strikethrough~~ indicates materials deleted. Deletions of large blocks of material are noted in [brackets].

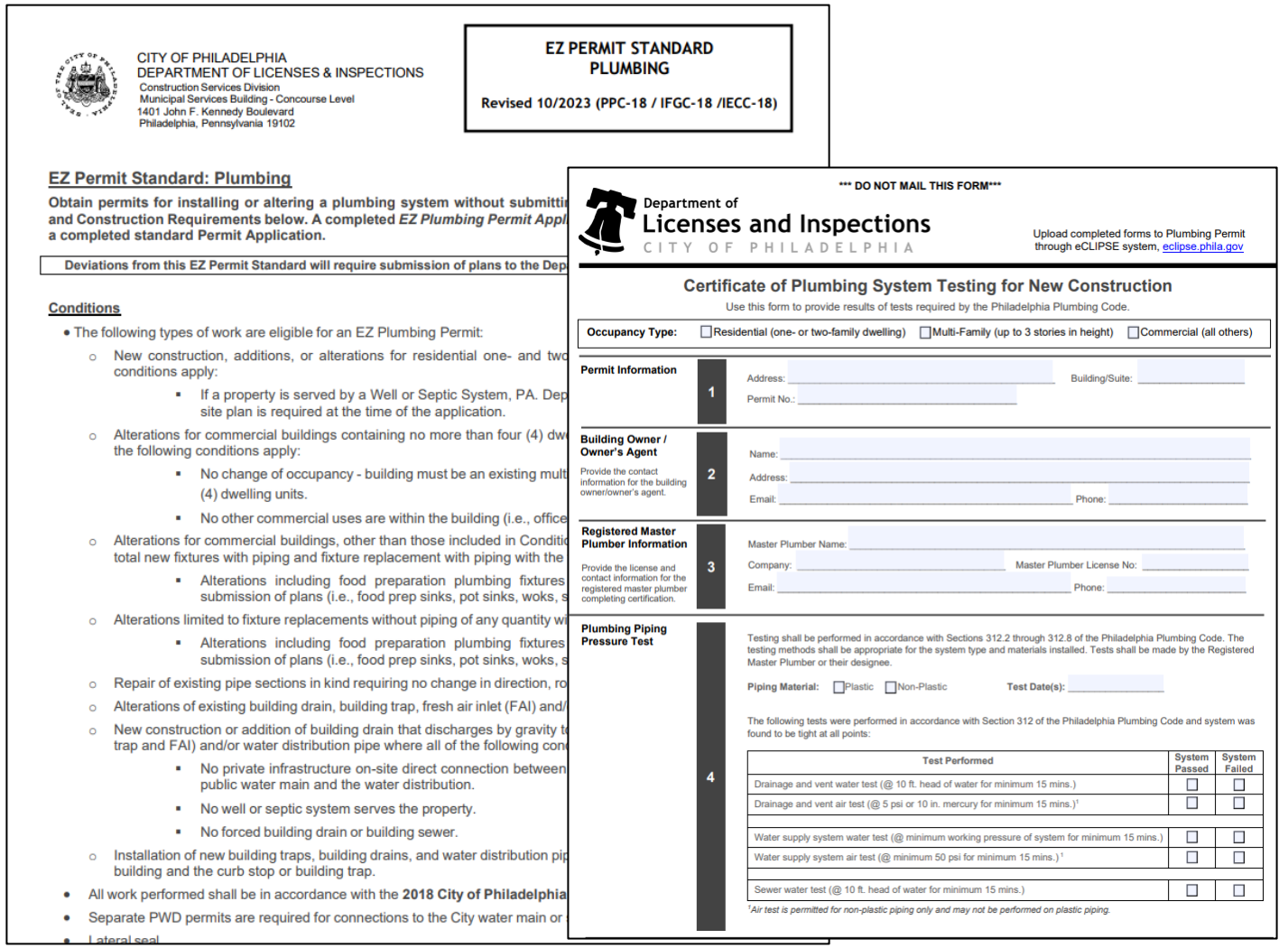
City of Philadelphia - 1 -

Section	Topic	Change
Chapter 2	Definitions	**Retain 2018** definitions for private and public. Add Mech Code definition for plenum.
314.2.1.1	Condensate discharge	**Retain 2018 language**. Omit section on condensate discharge. 2023 amendments address allowable disposal outlets.
403.1/ 403.2	All-gender facilities	**Retain 2018 language.** Omit reference to urinal. The 2023 amendments adopting provisions for all-gender facilities include a prohibition on urinals with these facilities.
403.3.1/403.5	Accessible route	**Retain 2018 language** explicitly referencing accessibility requirements of the Bldg Code.
404.3	Exposed pipes under accessible lav	**Retain 2018 language.** Do not adopt ASTM C1822 (geopolymer concrete) for covering exposed pipes.
412.3/412.4	Shower valves	Clarify that stated flow rate is a minimum value.
606.7	Labeling of water distribution pipes	**Retain 2018 language** for labeling of bundled water distribution pipe.
609.2	Water Service for I-2	Add reference to water distribution to reflect Phila definitions
610.1	Disinfection and testing	Include exception for disinfection/ analysis for one and two family dwellings regulated by the Residential Code. Consistent with current practice.
705.2.4 and 705.10.4	Push-fit fittings	**Retain 2018 language**. Omit push-fit fitting allowance for DWV due to production issues. and revisit product status during next code cycle change.
718/719	Building sewer repair	Incorporates two new methods for building sewer repair, relining and rehab, but limits to one and two family dwellings. Requirements are taken from IPC but relisted as a change due to section changes.
915.1	Combination waste and vent system	**Retain 2018 language** that restricts use for food waste disposers.
919.2.10/919.4	High Rise vertical soil/ waste stack	Clarification to base sizing/ velocity break on the height of the stack and not the overall building
919.3.5	Vent stack sizing	Language is clarified to support intent and resolve conflict. Stack must be same diameter as building sewer w/ min 4" size.
1002.3	Partition Traps	Clarify the prohibition on internal partition traps (incl bottle traps) due to maintenance concerns. Revisit product development next code cycle.
1002.4.1.5	Trap seal protection	**Retain 2018 language** to omit fixture drain method and allow only certified trap seal devices.
1102.6	Roof Drain	**Retain 2018 language** to cross reference materials section and omit references for testing.

Form Updates

Updated Forms

- New forms will be available for 2021 Codes.
- All FAQs, bulletins, info sheets, EZ permits etc. will be updated as needed.
  - Most will be revised but not re-issued.



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES & INSPECTIONS
Construction Services Division
Municipal Services Building - Concourse Level
1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

EZ PERMIT STANDARD PLUMBING

Revised 10/2023 (PPC-18 / IFGC-18 /IECC-18)

EZ Permit Standard: Plumbing

Obtain permits for installing or altering a plumbing system without submitti and Construction Requirements below. A completed *EZ Plumbing Permit Appl* a completed standard Permit Application.

Deviations from this EZ Permit Standard will require submission of plans to the Dep

Conditions

- The following types of work are eligible for an EZ Plumbing Permit:
  - New construction, additions, or alterations for residential one- and two conditions apply:
    - If a property is served by a Well or Septic System, PA. Dep site plan is required at the time of the application.
  - Alterations for commercial buildings containing no more than four (4) dw the following conditions apply:
    - No change of occupancy - building must be an existing mult (4) dwelling units.
    - No other commercial uses are within the building (i.e., office
  - Alterations for commercial buildings, other than those included in Conditi total new fixtures with piping and fixture replacement with piping with the
    - Alterations including food preparation plumbing fixtures submission of plans (i.e., food prep sinks, pot sinks, woks, s
  - Alterations limited to fixture replacements without piping of any quantity wi
    - Alterations including food preparation plumbing fixtures submission of plans (i.e., food prep sinks, pot sinks, woks, s
  - Repair of existing pipe sections in kind requiring no change in direction, ro
  - Alterations of existing building drain, building trap, fresh air inlet (FAI) and/
  - New construction or addition of building drain that discharges by gravity t trap and FAI) and/or water distribution pipe where all of the following con
    - No private infrastructure on-site direct connection between public water main and the water distribution.
    - No well or septic system serves the property.
    - No forced building drain or building sewer.
  - Installation of new building traps, building drains, and water distribution pi building and the curb stop or building trap.
- All work performed shall be in accordance with the **2018 City of Philadelphia**
- Separate PWD permits are required for connections to the City water main or
- Lateral seal

*** DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM***

Department of
Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Upload completed forms to Plumbing Permit through eCLIPSE system, eclipse.phila.gov

Certificate of Plumbing System Testing for New Construction

Use this form to provide results of tests required by the Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

Occupancy Type: ☐ Residential (one- or two-family dwelling) ☐ Multi-Family (up to 3 stories in height) ☐ Commercial (all others)

Permit Information — 1
Address: _____ Building/Suite: _____
Permit No.: _____

Building Owner / Owner's Agent — 2
Provide the contact information for the building owner/owner's agent.
Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Registered Master Plumber Information — 3
Provide the license and contact information for the registered master plumber completing certification.
Master Plumber Name: _____
Company: _____ Master Plumber License No: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Plumbing Piping Pressure Test — 4

Testing shall be performed in accordance with Sections 312.2 through 312.8 of the Philadelphia Plumbing Code. The testing methods shall be appropriate for the system type and materials installed. Tests shall be made by the Registered Master Plumber or their designee.

Piping Material: ☐ Plastic ☐ Non-Plastic **Test Date(s):** _____

The following tests were performed in accordance with Section 312 of the Philadelphia Plumbing Code and system was found to be tight at all points:

Test Performed	System Passed	System Failed
Drainage and vent water test (@ 10 ft. head of water for minimum 15 mins.)	☐	☐
Drainage and vent air test (@ 5 psi or 10 in. mercury for minimum 15 mins.)[1]	☐	☐
Water supply system water test (@ minimum working pressure of system for minimum 15 mins.)	☐	☐
Water supply system air test (@ minimum 50 psi for minimum 15 mins.)[1]	☐	☐
Sewer water test (@ 10 ft. head of water for minimum 15 mins.)	☐	☐

[1] *Air test is permitted for non-plastic piping only and may not be performed on plastic piping.*

Guidance Documents

Assistance in Understanding Changes

- Publish list of changes, by Code, as they will be applied in Philadelphia.

Department of Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Reference Code(s):
International Building Code

FAQ:
What are the significant changes between the 2018 and 2021 Building Code?

This document includes a summary of significant changes to the Building Code (IBC) and includes the PA Uniform Construction Advisory Council (RAC) Report Amendments. This document a information for the identified code changes

Disclaimer: This document shall be utilized as guidance professional is responsible for reviewing the provisions of the I associated reference Standards, and the directives of the PA D and Industry. The Department of Licenses and Inspections decision in response to a formal application for a const preliminary review.

Summary of changes between the 2018 and 2021 International
(Items marked with an asterisk (*) are identified as major code change

Administration

Chapter 2:

- Definition- Atrium
- Definition- Change of Occupancy *
- Definition- Impact Protective System
- Definition- Mass Timber *
- Definition- Nailable Substrate
- Definition- Penthouse
- Definition- Puzzle Room *
- Definition- Structural Members

Building Planning

Chapters 3 through 6:

- Section 306.2- Group F-1 Occupancy Classification

PB_020_FAQ

Department of Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Return Home

Reference Code(s):
International Building Code

Summary of Changes between the 2018 and 2021 Building Code

Administration

Chapter 2 (Definitions)

- **Definition of "Atrium"** has been simplified by the elimination of some previous language to clearly define vertical enclosures and the number of stories connected by an atrium.

[BG] ATRIUM. A vertical space that is closed at the top, connecting two or more stories in Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies or three or more stories in all other occupancies.

- **Definition of "Change of Occupancy"** narrows the scope of a change of occupancy where no classification change takes place.

[A] CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY. Either of the following shall be considered as a change of occupancy where this code requires a greater degree of safety, accessibility, structural strength, fire protection, means of egress, ventilation or sanitation than is existing in the current building or structure:

1. Any change in the occupancy classification of a building or structure.
2. Any change in the purpose of, or a change in the level of activity within, a building or structure.

- **NEW Definition of "Impact Protective System"** has been added for assemblies that are designed to withstand windborne debris.

[BS] IMPACT PROTECTIVE SYSTEM. Construction that has been shown by testing to withstand the impact of test missiles and that is applied, attached or locked over exterior glazing.

- **Definition of "Mass Timber"** has been amended to specifically define mass timber as representative of both the large wood building elements historically recognized as Heavy Timber (now Type IV-HT) constructions and the three new construction types of IV-A, IV-B and IV-C.

[BG] MASS TIMBER. Structural elements of Type IV construction primarily of solid, built-up, panelized or engineered wood products that meet minimum cross-section dimensions of Type IV construction.

[BF] NONCOMBUSTIBLE PROTECTION (FOR MASS TIMBER). Noncombustible material, in accordance with Section 703.6, designed to increase the fire-resistance rating and delay the combustion of mass timber.

- **Definition of "Nailable Substrate"** has been amended to clarify what materials should be expected to provide withdrawal resistance for roof or wall cladding assemblies.

[BF] NAILABLE SUBSTRATE. A product or material such as framing, sheathing or furring, composed of wood, wood-based materials or other materials providing equivalent fastener withdrawal resistance.

PB_020_FAQ Page 6 of 54

Future Information Sessions

2021 Code Questions

Answers to your questions

- Request that L&I issue an interpretation on a specific code section. This form, linked in our newsletter, can also be used for 2021 code issues / concerns.
- Look out for future newsletters or trainings for public response.

Note: Continue to use www.phila.gov/get-help for direct responses to code questions.

Code Corner

2021 I-Code transition materials

Beginning in January 2026, all new permit applications must conform to the 2021 I-Codes. This page includes forms and documents to prepare for the transition.

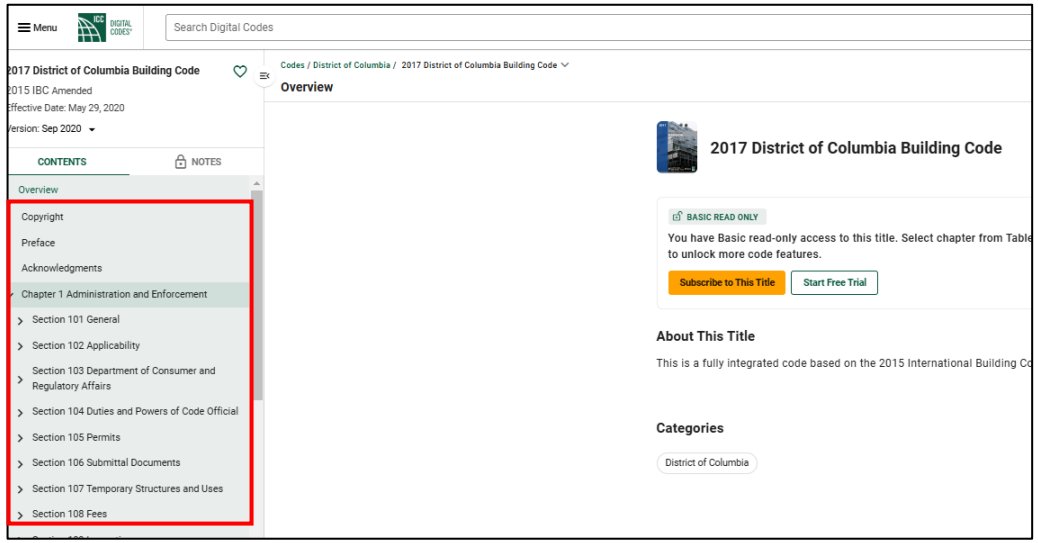
Filter documents by title or description

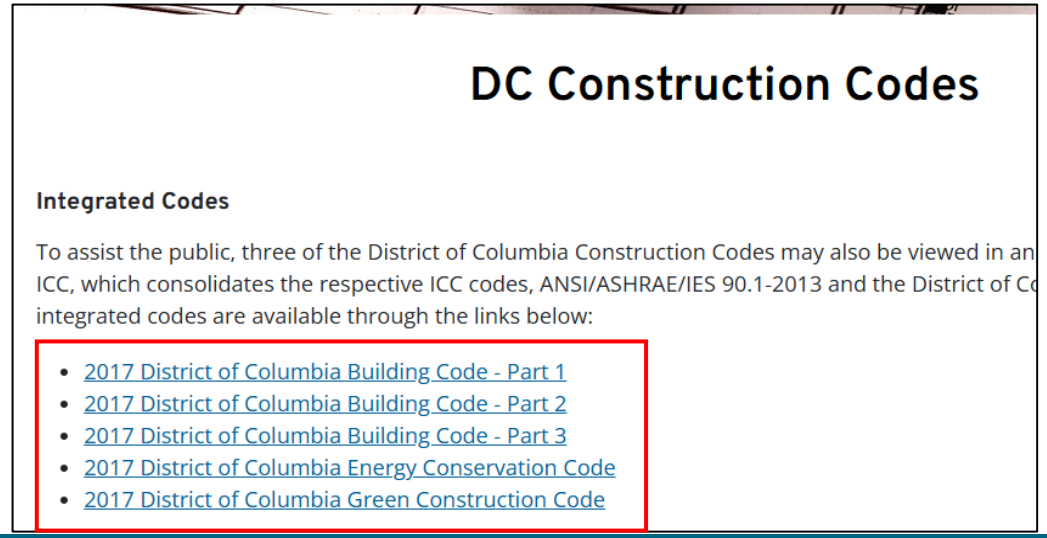
Name	Description	Released	Format
2021 I-Code- Q&A	Questions and answers regarding the 2021 I-Code transition.	January 24, 2025	PDF
2021 ICC Code Adoption Final Report	This report is issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry Review and Advisory Council for modifications to the 2021 I-Codes, to be adopted throughout PA as part of the Uniform Construction Code.	September 20, 2024	PDF
2021 IPC Changed Sections	This document lists sections that were changed under the 2021 International Plumbing Code.	September 20, 2024	PDF
2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code Changes	This document provides guidance that highlights the impacts of the 2021 changes and proposed local changes to the 2018 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.	September 20, 2024	PDF
Proposed Phila Changes to the 2021 IPC Provisions	This document provides recommendations by the Plumbing Advisory Board (PAB) to better accommodate local conditions. This document excludes those changes already adopted by ordinance.	September 20, 2024	PDF
2021 I-Code changes webinar slides	These slides provide an overview of the timeline, what to expect in the coming year, and examples of significant changes from the 2021 I-Code adoption.	December 18, 2024	PDF

Published Consolidated Code

Electronic Access to Consolidated Codes

- All Building Construction and Occupancy Sub-Codes, except Admin Code, will be published to ICC's website.
- Free access to read-only version. Paid subscription provides additional functionality.
- An integrated PDF of each code will be available on L&I website.
- Integrated codes will be published as completed by ICC. Very limited pool will be available by July 13.
- Public can continue to access free versions of I-Codes and the Philadelphia Code, which identifies all local and state changes to I-Codes.





2021 Plumbing Code Provisions

(*Source: ICC Significant Changes to IPC)*

Department of
Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Definitions

Water Dispenser-
A plumbing fixture that is manually controlled by the user for the purpose of dispensing potable drinking water into a receptacle such as a cup, glass or bottle. Such fixture is connected to the potable water distribution system of the premises. ~~This definition includes a freestanding apparatus for the same purpose that is not connected to the potable water distribution system and that is supplied with potable water from a container, bottle or reservoir~~.

Removed bottled water dispensers from definition.

In order to serve as a substitute for required drinking fountains, the dispenser must be connected to water supply.

Note: 410.4 further modified to only allow exception with 3 or more drinking fountains are required.

Bottled water unit is not a water dispenser

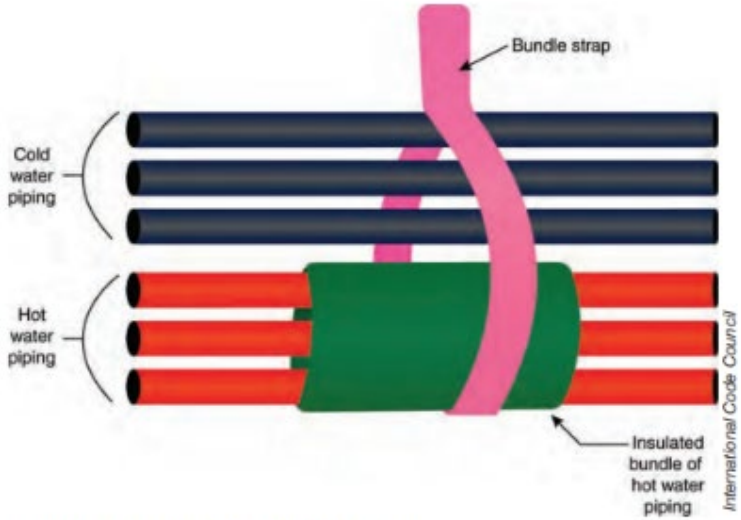
Chapter 3- General Regulations

308.9: Parallel water distribution systems.
Piping bundles for manifold systems shall be supported in accordance with Table 308.5. Support at changes in direction shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Where hot water piping is bundled with cold water piping, hot water piping shall be insulated in accordance with Section 607.5.

Clarification to allow insulation of hot water bundle and avoid complications of insulating individual hot water pipes.

Reference the appropriate section for insulation.

See FAQ on hot water piping insulation requirements



Hot water piping bundled with cold water piping

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

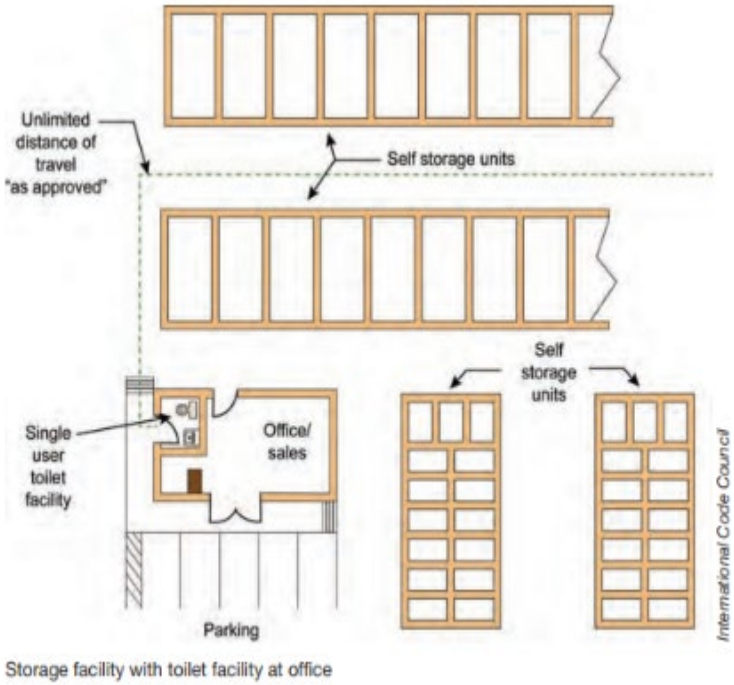
403.3.3 Location of toilet facilities in occupancies other than malls.
In occupancies other than covered and open mall buildings, the required public and employee toilet facilities shall be located not more than one story above or below the space required to be provided with toilet facilities, and the path of travel to such facilities shall not exceed a distance of 500 feet (152 m).

Exceptions:

1.The location and maximum distances of travel to required employee facilities in factory and industrial occupancies shall be permitted to exceed that required by this section, provided that the location and maximum distances of travel are approved.

2.The location and maximum distances of travel to required public and employee facilities in Group S occupancies shall be permitted to exceed that required by this section, provided that the location and maximum distances of travel are approved.

Grants L&I the authority to increase the number of floors and travel distance for Group S occupancies that have low occupant load and occupied time (parking garages, self storage facilities, etc.).



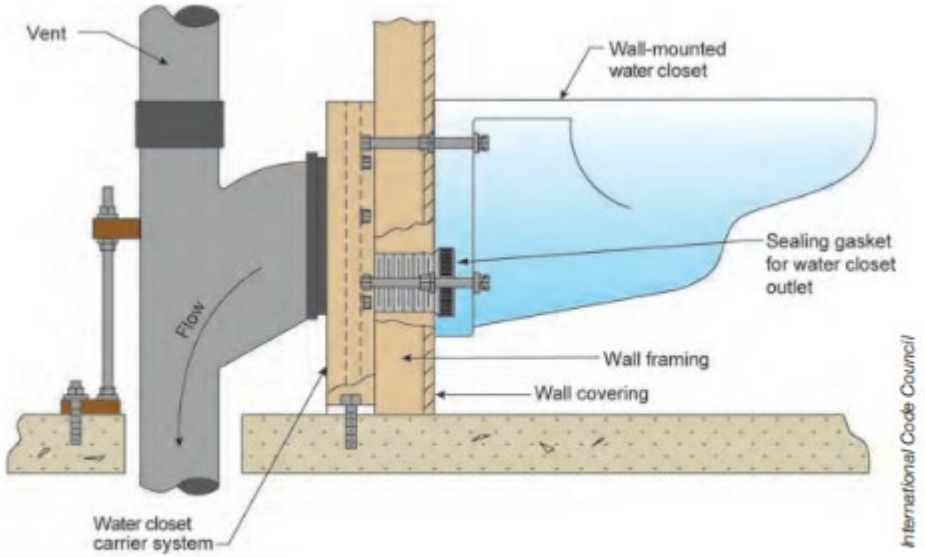
Storage facility with toilet facility at office

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

405.4.3 Securing wall-hung water closet bowls.
Wall-hung water closet bowls shall be supported by a concealed metal carrier that is attached to the building structural members so that strain is not transmitted to the fixture connector or any other part of the plumbing system. The carrier shall conform to ASME A112.6.1M or ASME A112.6.2.

New carrier standard for wall-hung water closets:

A112.6.1M-1997 (R2017): Floor Affixed Supports for Off-the-Floor Plumbing Fixtures for Public Use

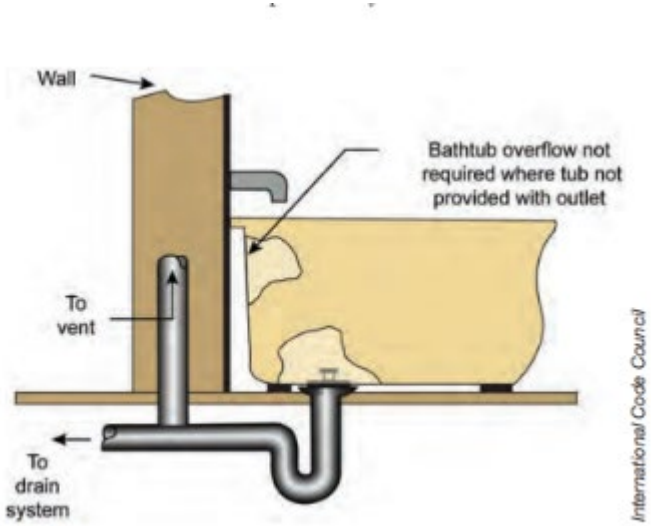


Wall-hung water closet carrier

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

407.2 Bathtub waste outlets and overflows.
Bathtubs shall be equipped with a waste outlet ~~and an overflow outlet~~. The outlets shall be connected to waste tubing or piping that is not less than 1-1/2 inches (38 mm) in diameter. The waste outlet shall be equipped with a water-tight stopper. Where an overflow is installed, the overflow shall be not less than 1-1/2inches (38mm) in diameter.

Removes the need for an overflow, which would not effectively drain. Protecting the tub from overflow is the bather's responsibility.



Overflow not required

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

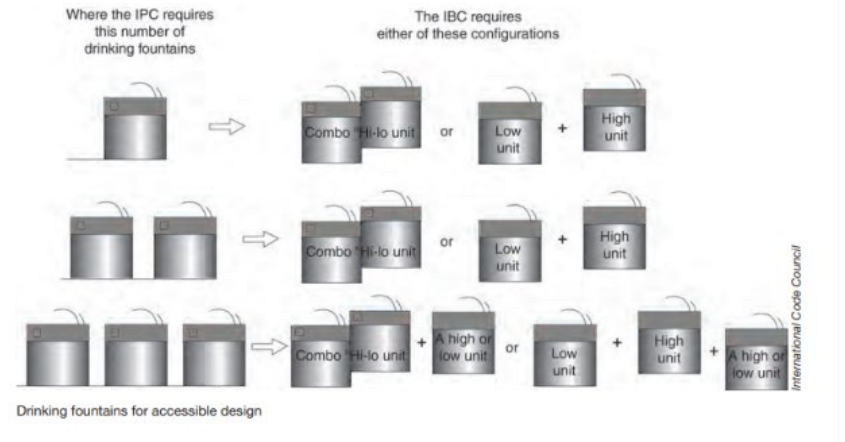
410.3.2 More than the minimum number.
Where more than the minimum number of drinking fountains specified in Section 410.3.1 is provided, 50 percent of the total number of drinking fountains provided shall comply with the requirements for persons who use a wheelchair and 50 percent of the total number of drinking fountains provided shall comply with the requirements for standing persons.
Exceptions:

1. Where 50 percent of the drinking fountains yields a fraction, 50 percent shall be permitted to be rounded up or down, provided that the total number of drinking fountains complying with this section equals 100 percent of the drinking fountains.

2. Where drinking fountains are primarily for children's use, drinking fountains for people using wheelchairs shall be permitted to comply with the children's provisions in ICC A117.1 and drinking fountains for standing children shall be permitted to provide the spout at 30 inches (762 mm) minimum above the floor.

Adds high/low requirements found in the Bldg. Code to the Plumbing Code.

Clarifies that distribution must be evenly split between high/low, even when exceeding minimum, with some exceptions.



Drinking fountains for accessible design

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

411.3 Water supply.
(Water Heaters for emergency showers and eye wash)
Where hot and cold water is supplied to an emergency shower or eyewash station, the temperature of the water supply shall only be controlled by a temperature-actuated mixing valve complying with ASSE 1071. Where water is supplied directly to an emergency shower or eyewash station from a water heater, the water heater shall comply with ASSE 1085.

A new standard, ASSE 1085, was developed for water heaters specifically designed for emergency fixtures. The water heater cannot produce a temperature of hot water exceeding 100°F and water heater produces water within a minute at the tepid temperature range required for emergency fixtures.

Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com/alacatr

Emergency shower water heater

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

Changes to Section 412, Faucets and Fixture Fittings include:

- **Intent to set max temperature at 120°F clearer.**
- **Lower flow shower heads must be compatible with shower control mixing valves.**
- **New means of regulating water temperature for tubs and shampoo sinks. Note: New temperature regulation controls under 423.3 (footbaths), too.**

Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com/TriggerPhoto

Temperature limiting for bathtubs

Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution

602.3.5 Pumps.

605.12.3 Solder Joints for copper pipe

605.12.6 Solder joints for copper tubing

Potable water pumps and solder and flux used in making joints in pipe and tubing for drinking water, must comply with NSF 61 standard.

NSF 61-Compliant solder and flux

Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com/GaryAlvis

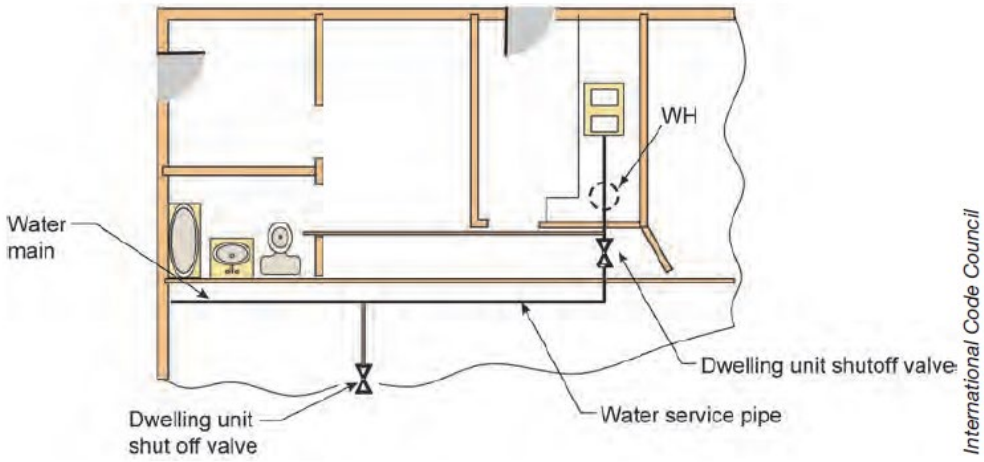
Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution

606.1 Location of full-open valves.
Full-open valves shall be installed in the following locations:

2. On the water distribution supply pipe at the entrance into the structure.

2.1. In multiple-tenant buildings, where a common water supply piping system is installed to supply other than one- and two-family dwellings, a main shutoff valve shall be provided for each tenant.

In a multi-tenant building, each tenant must have the ability to shut-off water for maintenance purposes, without shutting off water for enter building.



Individual tenant shut-off valves

Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution

607.1.2 Tempered water temperature control.
Tempered water shall be controlled by one the following:

1. A limiting device conforming to ASSE 1070/ASME A112.1070/CSA B125.70 and set to not greater than 110ºF (43ºC).

2. A thermostatic mixing valve conforming to ASSE 1017.

3. A water heater conforming to ASSE 1082.

4. A water heater conforming to ASSE 1084.

This provision shall not supersede the requirement for protective shower valves in accordance with Section 412.3.

The Code recognizes three new water heater standards that regulate the outlet temperature of the water heater and eliminate the need for an external temp limiting device. These standards are also referenced in applicable sections of Ch 4.

Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution

Protection of Potable Water Supply

608.15.2.1 Relief port piping.
The termination of the piping from the relief port or air gap fitting of a backflow preventer shall discharge to an approved indirect waste receptor or to the outdoors where it will not cause damage or create a nuisance. The indirect waste receptor and drainage piping shall be sized to drain the maximum discharge flow rate from the relief port as published by the backflow preventer manufacturer.

The Code requires that the drain be sized to accommodate the maximum flow rate through the relief port, as published in the manufacturer's specifications.

International Code Council

Waste receptor for backflow preventer

Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution

609.2 Water Service for Group I-2, Condition 2

Group I-2, Condition 2 facilities shall have not fewer than two water service pipes sized such that with the loss of the largest service pipe, the remaining service pipes will meet the water demand for the entire facility. Each water service shall have a shutoff valve in the building and a shutoff valve at the utility-provided point of connection to the water main or other source of potable water.

Language revised to clarify the types of healthcare occupancies that require redundant services and requirement for shut-off valve for each water line was added.

Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution (Proposed Local Change)

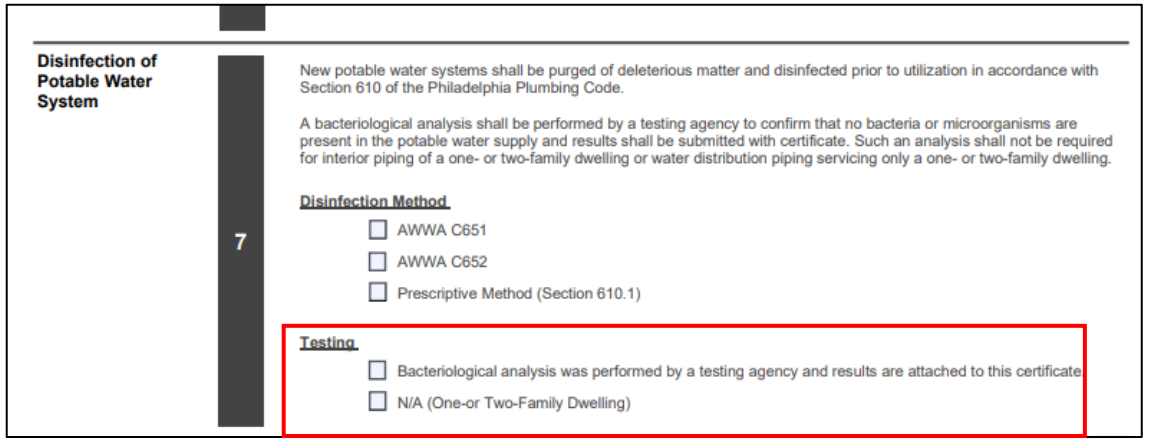
610.1 Disinfection of Potable Water-General

New potable water systems shall be purged of deleterious matter and disinfected prior to utilization. The method to be followed shall be that prescribed by the health authority or water purveyor having jurisdiction or, in the absence of a prescribed method, the procedure described in either AWWA C651 or AWWA C652, or as described in this section. This requirement shall apply to “on-site” or “in-plant” fabrication of a system or to a modular portion of a system.

Exception: Analysis shall not be required for interior piping or water distribution piping servicing one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses up to three stories in height.

Codified exception for lab analysis that currently applies to one- and two-family dwellings.

Will be required for duplexes and 4-story single family.



Disinfection of Potable Water System

7

New potable water systems shall be purged of deleterious matter and disinfected prior to utilization in accordance with Section 610 of the Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

A bacteriological analysis shall be performed by a testing agency to confirm that no bacteria or microorganisms are present in the potable water supply and results shall be submitted with certificate. Such an analysis shall not be required for interior piping of a one- or two-family dwelling or water distribution piping servicing only a one- or two-family dwelling.

Disinfection Method

- ☐ AWWA C651
- ☐ AWWA C652
- ☐ Prescriptive Method (Section 610.1)

Testing

- ☐ Bacteriological analysis was performed by a testing agency and results are attached to this certificate
- ☐ N/A (One-or Two-Family Dwelling)

Chapter 7- Sanitary Drainage

Cleanouts

708.1.6 Cleanout equivalent.
A fixture trap or a fixture with integral trap, removable without altering concealed piping, shall be acceptable as a cleanout equivalent.

Allows removable traps and removable fixtures with integral traps to serve as clean-outs.

It must be readily removable — meaning you can take it out without disturbing walls, floors, or other concealed piping.

There are prohibitions in other sections:

1) Section 708.1.3 prohibits the removal of water closets to serve as cleanout access to a building sewer.

2) Section 708.1.5 (Exception 1) only allows cleanout access through a removable P-trap for the same or one size larger pipe size.

Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com/ClausAlwinVogel

Removable trap as cleanout

Chapter 7- Sanitary Drainage

Sewer Rehabilitation

718 and 719 - Two methods of trenchless pipe restoration have been added to the Code: Lining and Cure-In-Place

Philadelphia is proposing to allow only for building sewers serving one- and two-family dwellings.

Code requires pipe to be cleaned and a video survey conducted to determine if there are any defects or conditions that may preclude use under the manufacturer's specifications or specific provisions of the Code (i.e. deteriorations, slope).

Pre and post installation video recordings must be provided to the Department as per the permitting process.

More info to follow on specific application procedures.

Chapter 9- Vents

903.1.3 Protected vent terminal.

Where an open vent pipe terminates above a sloped roof and is covered by either a roof-mounted panel (such as a solar collector or photovoltaic panel mounted over the vent opening) or a roof element (such as an architectural feature or a decorative shroud), the vent pipe shall terminate not less than 2 inches (51 mm) above the roof surface. Such roof elements shall be designed to prevent the adverse effects of snow accumulation and wind on the function of the vent. The placement of a panel over a vent pipe and the design of a roof element covering the vent pipe shall provide for an open area for the vent pipe to the outdoors that is not less than the area of the pipe, as calculated from the inside diameter of the pipe. Such vent terminals shall be protected by a method that prevents birds and rodents from entering or blocking the vent pipe opening.

- ***Reorganizes three existing vent terminal options (extension min 24" above roof, extension of more than 7' for roofs used for entertainment, venting through a sidewall) into one section.***

- ***A fourth option to allow the vent to terminate 2" above a sloped roof when protected by a covering has been added. This would allow photovoltaic solar collectors to be installed over vent terminals. It would also allow other protected vent terminals, such as architectural features that hide the vent for aesthetic purposes.***

Photo courtesy of gettyimages.com/bigdaddyrockstar

Architectural shroud

Chapter 9- Vents
(Proposed Local Change)

P-919.2.10 High-rise buildings.
If a vertical soil or waste stack is 75 feet (23 m) in height and not more than 160 feet (49 m) in height, the vertical soil or waste stacks connected to the house drain or to any of its branches shall be one size larger than given in Table 919.2(c), and this shall also apply when the soil or waste stacks are connected to a horizontal branch pipe that discharges into a soil or waste stack. If a vertical soil or waste stack is more than 160 feet in height, the vertical soil or waste stacks connected to the house drain or to any of its branches shall be two sizes larger than given in Table 919.2(c), and this shall also apply when the vertical soil or waste stacks are connected to the horizontal branch pipe that discharges into a soil or waste stack. The size of the main soil stack shall be sized according to the largest branch entering the stack, except if the amount of fixture units requires a larger size. The developed length of the soil or waste stacks shall be determined by measuring the distance between the center line of the horizontal branch pipe and to an elevation 6" above the flood level rim of the highest fixture. If a relief vent is installed on all horizontal branches below the highest fixture and between the soil or waste stacks and the first fixture on the horizontal branch, the soil or waste stack sizes shall be in accordance with Table 919.2(c), regardless of the height of the soil or waste stack. The diameter of a relief vent shall not be less than one-half the diameter of the horizontal branch to which it is connected, with a minimum size of 1½ inches (38 mm). The maximum number of fixture units connected to the relief vent shall be in accordance with Table 919.9(a). The size of the branch line and its stack shall be determined by the developed length of the stack.

P-919.4 VELOCITY BREAKS IN SOIL OR WASTE STACKS OVER 300' IN HEIGHT

P-919.4.1 Required. Velocity breaks shall be required in soil or waste stacks over 300 feet in height to impede the velocity of the waste. At each velocity break, the stack shall be offset by two 45-degree breaks. A relief vent one-half the size of the soil stack shall be installed at the top of the second 45-degree break and shall be connected to the nearest vent stack.

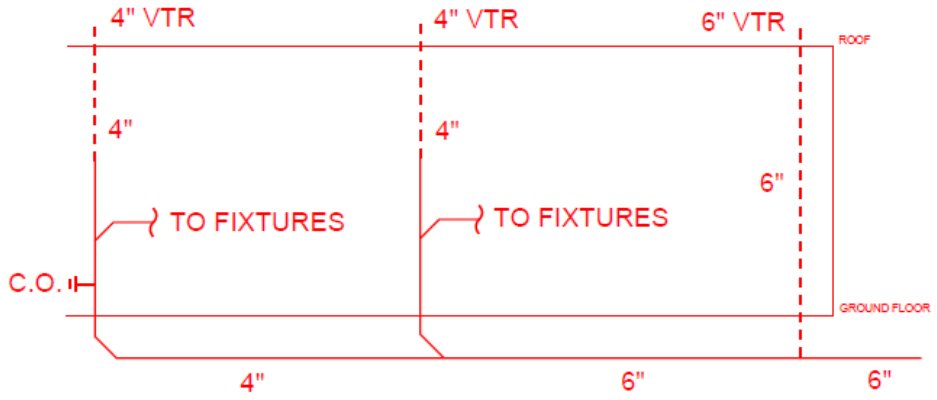
P-919.4.2 Intervals. Velocity breaks shall be installed on any floor level within the first ten stories of the soil or waste stack and at intervals of not more than 20 stories above the lowest velocity break and each break thereafter.

Modified language to base velocity breaks on the height of the stack instead of the height of the building.

Chapter 9- Vents
(Proposed Local Change)

P-919.3.5 Vent required.
Every building in which plumbing is installed shall have at least one stack vent or vent stack which shall be equal in size of the diameter of the building sewer and shall run undiminished in size as directly as possible from the building sewer through to the open air above the roof. The minimum size of the stack vent or vent stack shall be 4” (102mm).

Language is clarified to support intent and resolve conflict. Stack must be the same diameter as building sewer w/ min 4” size.



Chapter 10- Traps, Interceptors, and Separators (Proposed Local Change)

P-1002.3 Prohibited traps.
The following types of traps are prohibited:

1. Traps that depend on moving parts to maintain the seal.
2. Bell traps.
3. Crown-vented traps.
4. Traps not integral with a fixture and that depend on interior partitions for the seal~~, except those traps constructed of an approved material that is resistant to corrosion and degradation.~~
5. “S” traps.
6. Drum traps.

Exceptions:

1. Drum traps used as solids interceptors and drum traps serving chemical waste systems shall not be prohibited.
2. “S” traps are permitted to be used as a direct replacement to a previously installed “S” trap.
3. Traps with interior partitions serving chemical waste systems shall not be prohibited.

Clarify prohibition on internal partition traps, including bottle traps.

Proposed Local Changes (Additional)

Department of
Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Section	Topic	Change
Chapter 2	Definitions	**Retain 2018** definitions for private and public. Add Mech Code definition for plenum.
314.2.1.1	Condensate discharge	**Retain 2018 language**. Omit section on condensate discharge. 2023 amendments address allowable disposal outlets.
403.1/ 403.2	All-gender facilities	**Retain 2018 language.** Omit reference to urinal. The 2023 amendments adopting provisions for all-gender facilities include a prohibition on urinals with these facilities.
403.3.1/403.5	Accessible route	**Retain 2018 language** explicitly referencing accessibility requirements of the Bldg Code.
404.3	Exposed pipes under accessible lav	**Retain 2018 language.** Do not adopt ASTM C1822 (geopolymer concrete) for covering exposed pipes.
412.3/412.4	Shower valves	Clarify that stated flow rate is a minimum value.
606.7	Labeling of water distribution pipes	**Retain 2018 language** for labeling of bundled water distribution pipe.
609.2	Water Service for I-2	Add reference to water distribution to reflect Phila definitions
610.1	Disinfection and testing	Include exception for disinfection/ analysis for one and two family dwellings regulated by the Residential Code. Consistent with current practice.
705.2.4 and 705.10.4	Push-fit fittings	**Retain 2018 language**. Omit push-fit fitting allowance for DWV due to production issues. and revisit product status during next code cycle change.
718/719	Building sewer repair	Incorporates two new methods for building sewer repair, relining and rehab, but limits to one and two family dwellings. Requirements are taken from IPC but relisted as a change due to section changes.
915.1	Combination waste and vent system	**Retain 2018 language** that restricts use for food waste disposers.
919.2.10/919.4	High Rise vertical soil/ waste stack	Clarification to base sizing/ velocity break on the height of the stack and not the overall building
919.3.5	Vent stack sizing	Language is clarified to support intent and resolve conflict. Stack must be same diameter as building sewer w/ min 4" size.
1002.3	Partition Traps	Clarify the prohibition on internal partition traps (incl bottle traps) due to maintenance concerns. Revisit product development next code cycle.
1002.4.1.5	Trap seal protection	**Retain 2018 language** to omit fixture drain method and allow only certified trap seal devices.
1102.6	Roof Drain	**Retain 2018 language** to cross reference materials section and omit references for testing.

Additional local change RETAIN current language.

Either electing NOT to adopt the 2021 language

OR

Already adopted a modified version under a prior ordinance.

Definitions

Retain current definitions of private and public.

PRIVATE.
In the classification of plumbing fixtures, “private” applies to fixtures *in residences and apartments, and to fixtures in nonpublic toilet rooms of hotels and motels and similar installations in buildings where the plumbing fixtures are intended for utilization by a family or an individual* ~~that are not public~~.

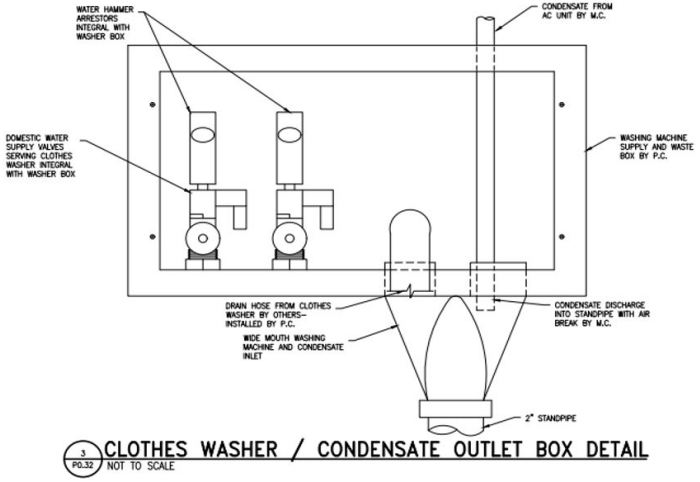
PUBLIC OR PUBLIC UTILIZATION.
In the classification of plumbing fixtures, “public” applies to fixtures *in general toilet rooms of schools, gymnasiums, hotels, airports, bus and railroad stations, public buildings, bars, public comfort stations, office buildings, stadiums, stores, restaurants and other installations where a number of fixtures are installed so that their utilization is similarly unrestricted with unrestricted exposure* ~~to walk-in traffic~~.

Chapter 3- General Regulations

Omit section on condensate discharge. 2023 amendments address allowable disposal outlets.

OMIT

~~314.2.1.1 Condensate discharge. Condensate drains shall not directly connect to any plumbing drain, waste or vent pipe. Condensate drains shall not discharge into a plumbing fixture other than a floor sink, floor drain, trench drain, mop sink, hub drain, standpipe, utility sink or laundry sink. Condensate drain connections to a lavatory wye branch tailpiece or to a bathtub overflow pipe shall not be considered as discharging to a plumbing fixture. Except where discharging to grade outdoors, the point of discharge of condensate drains shall be located within the same occupancy, tenant space or dwelling unit as the source of the condensate.~~



3 P0.32 CLOTHES WASHER / CONDENSATE OUTLET BOX DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

RETAIN EXISTING

P-314.2.1.1 Disposal into Clothes Washer Box.

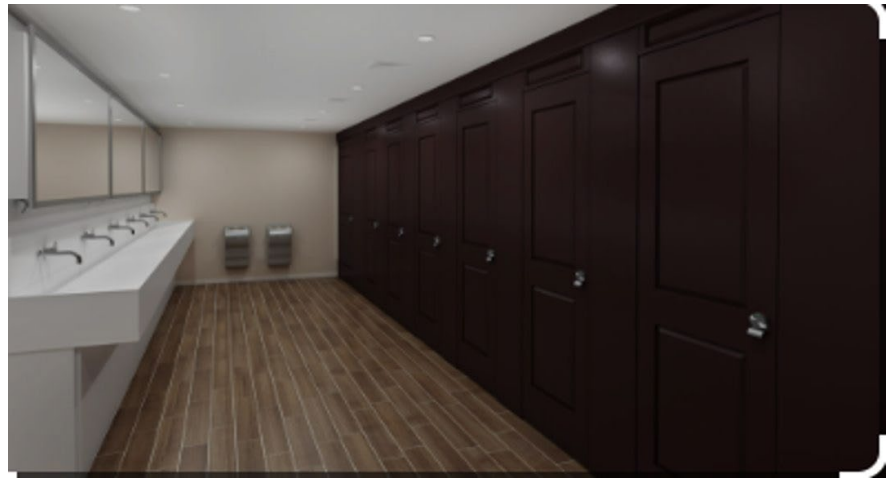
Condensate shall be permitted to discharge into a clothes washer box with dual drainage outlets with one outlet dedicated to the clothes washer discharge and one outlet dedicated to condensate discharge. Condensate shall also be permitted to discharge into a clothes washer box with a single drainage outlet where the inlet of the clothes washer box outlet is sized to accommodate both the clothes washer discharge and the condensate discharge.

Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

Retain current provisions on all-gender facilities. Urinals not permitted.

P-403.2 Separate facilities.
Where plumbing fixtures are required, separate *gender-based* facilities shall be provided ~~for each sex~~.

Exceptions:
6. *For occupancy classifications requiring the same number of water closets and lavatories for male and female under Table 403.1,* ~~Separate~~ facilities shall not be required where rooms having both water closets and lavatory fixtures are designed for use by ~~both sexes~~ *all genders* and privacy for water closets is provided in accordance with Section 405.3.4. Urinals shall ~~be located in an area visually separated from the remainder of the facility or each urinal that is provided shall be located in a stall~~ *not be permitted in facilities designed for use by all genders.*



Chapter 4-Fixtures, Faucets, and Fixture Fittings

Retain current provisions for pipe coverings under accessible lavatories.

Do not adopt ASTM C1822.

P-404.3 Exposed pipes and surfaces.
Water supply and drain pipes under accessible lavatories and sinks shall be covered or otherwise configured to protect against contact. Pipe coverings shall comply with ASME A112.18.9 ~~or ASTM C1822~~.

Chapter 6- Water Supply and Distribution

Retain current provisions for labeling bundled water distribution pipe.

P-606.7 Labeling of water distribution pipes in bundles.
Where water distribution piping is bundled at installation, each pipe in the bundle shall be identified using stenciling or commercially available pipe labels. The identification shall indicate the pipe contents and the direction of flow in the pipe. The interval of the identification markings on the pipe shall not exceed 25 feet (7620 mm). There shall be not less than one identification label on each pipe in each room, space or story.

Chapter 7- Sanitary Drainage

Retain current provisions relating to push-fit fittings. Not permitted for DWV

P-705.2.4 *Reserved.*
~~Push-fit joints. Push-fit DWV fittings shall be listed and labeled to ASME A112.4.4 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.~~

705.10.4. *Reserved.*
~~Push-fit joints. Push-fit joints shall conform to ASME A112.4.4 and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions~~

Chapter 9- Vents

Retain restriction on use of combination waste and vent system for discharge from food waste disposers.

P-915.1 Type of fixtures.
A combination waste and vent system shall not serve fixtures other than floor drains, sinks, lavatories and drinking fountains. Combination waste and vent systems shall not receive the discharge from a *food waste disposer or* clinical sink.

Chapter 10- Traps, Interceptor, Separators

Omit allowance of fixture drain method of trap seal protection. Allow only certified trap seal devices.

P-1002.4.1.5 Reserved.

~~Fixture drain connection for trap priming. A fixture drain from a lavatory or hand sink shall serve as a method of providing trap seal protection for an emergency floor drain, a trench drain, or a floor sink where such fixtures are located in the same room. A fixture drain from a drinking fountain shall serve as a method of providing trap seal protection for an emergency floor drain, a trench drain, or a floor sink where such fixtures are in the same room or in a room adjacent to the room having the drinking fountain. The fixture drain shall not be routed on or above the surface of the floor and shall connect to the floor drain, trench drain, or floor sink at a point that is below the flood level rim and above the inlet to the trap of the receiving fixture.~~

Chapter 11- Storm Drainage

Retain 2018 language to cross reference roof drain materials section and omit references for testing.

1102.6 Roof drains.

Roof drains shall conform to ASME 112.3.1 or ASME A112.6.4. *Roof drain materials shall comply with Sections P-1102.2 & P-702.1.* ~~Roof drains, other than siphonic roof drains, shall be tested and rated in accordance with ASME A112.6.4 or ASPE/IAPMO Z1034.~~

Resources

L&I:

Submit topics of concern through our recommendations form.

Submit questions on current codes/ processes through www.phila.gov/li/get-help.

Track legislative changes and content updates through our newsletter.

Attend future info sessions.

ICC

www.iccsafe.org
Access public information, become a member, or subscribe to digital codes.

What's Coming

- Web User Interface Upgrade- Fall 2025
- Automatic Resolution of Certain Holds- Fall 2025
- License Withholding for Unpaid LVNs/ SVNS: July 2025
  - Permits are next phase
  - See Contractor Look Up for outstanding fines
- GC can add subs to trade permits. Will still require plumbing contractor approval. Winter 2026
- Contractor can view any violations from eCLIPSE Home Page.