



# 2012 INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE®

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION... 1</b>                         | 316 Alternative Engineered Design ..... 22                          |
| <b>PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION..... 1</b>                             | <b>CHAPTER 4 FIXTURES, FAUCETS AND<br/>FIXTURE FITTINGS..... 25</b> |
| Section  | Section   |
| 101 General ..... 1  | 401 General ..... 25  |
| 102 Applicability ..... 1  | 402 Fixture Materials ..... 25                                      |
| <b>PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND<br/>ENFORCEMENT..... 2</b>                | 403 Minimum Plumbing Facilities ..... 25                            |
| Section  | 404 Accessible Plumbing Facilities ..... 29                         |
| 103 Department of Plumbing Inspection..... 2                           | 405 Installation of Fixtures ..... 29                               |
| 104 Duties and Powers of the Code Official..... 2                      | 406 Automatic Clothes Washers..... 30                               |
| 105 Approval..... 3  | 407 Bathtubs ..... 30   |
| 106 Permits ..... 3  | 408 Bidets ..... 30   |
| 107 Inspections and Testing ..... 5                                    | 409 Dishwashing Machines ..... 30                                   |
| 108 Violations ..... 6   | 410 Drinking Fountains ..... 31                                     |
| 109 Means of Appeal..... 7   | 411 Emergency Showers and Eyewash<br>Stations ..... 31              |
| 110 Temporary Equipment, Systems and Uses..... 8                       | 412 Floor and Trench Drains ..... 31                                |
| <b>CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS..... 9</b>                                    | 413 Food Waste Grinder Units ..... 31                               |
| Section  | 414 Garbage Can Washers ..... 31                                    |
| 201 General ..... 9  | 415 Laundry Trays ..... 31  |
| 202 General Definitions ..... 9  | 416 Lavatories..... 31  |
| <b>CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REGULATIONS..... 17</b>                           | 417 Showers ..... 32  |
| Section  | 418 Sinks..... 33   |
| 301 General ..... 17   | 419 Urinals ..... 33  |
| 302 Exclusion of Materials Detrimental<br>to the Sewer System ..... 17 | 420 Water Closets ..... 33  |
| 303 Materials..... 17  | 421 Whirlpool Bathtubs ..... 33                                     |
| 304 Rodentproofing..... 17   | 422 Health Care Fixtures and Equipment..... 34                      |
| 305 Protection of Pipes and Plumbing<br>System Components ..... 18     | 423 Specialty Plumbing Fixtures ..... 34                            |
| 306 Trenching, Excavation and Backfill..... 18                         | 424 Faucets and Other Fixture Fittings..... 34                      |
| 307 Structural Safety..... 19  | 425 Flushing Devices for Water Closets<br>and Urinals ..... 35      |
| 308 Piping Support ..... 19  | 426 Manual Food and Beverage<br>Dispensing Equipment ..... 35       |
| 309 Flood Hazard Resistance ..... 20                                   | 427 Floor Sinks ..... 36  |
| 310 Washroom and Toilet Room<br>Requirements..... 20                   | <b>CHAPTER 5 WATER HEATERS ..... 37</b>                             |
| 311 Toilet Facilities for Workers ..... 20                             | Section   |
| 312 Tests and Inspections ..... 20                                     | 501 General..... 37   |
| 313 Equipment Efficiencies ..... 21                                    | 502 Installation ..... 37   |
| 314 Condensate Disposal ..... 21                                       | 503 Connections ..... 37  |
| 315 Penetrations ..... 22  | 504 Safety Devices ..... 38   |
|  | 505 Insulation ..... 38   |

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER 6 WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION ..... 39**

Section

601 General ..... 39

602 Water Required. .... 39

603 Water Service ..... 39

604 Design of Building Water Distribution System ..... 40

605 Materials, Joints and Connections ..... 41

606 Installation of the Building Water Distribution System ..... 46

607 Hot Water Supply System ..... 47

608 Protection of Potable Water Supply ..... 48

609 Health Care Plumbing ..... 53

610 Disinfection of Potable Water System ..... 54

611 Drinking Water Treatment Units ..... 54

612 Solar Systems ..... 54

613 Temperature Control Devices and Valves ..... 54

**CHAPTER 7 SANITARY DRAINAGE ..... 55**

Section

701 General ..... 55

702 Materials ..... 55

703 Building Sewer ..... 57

704 Drainage Piping Installation ..... 57

705 Joints ..... 57

706 Connections Between Drainage Piping and Fittings ..... 60

707 Prohibited Joints and Connections ..... 61

708 Cleanouts ..... 61

709 Fixture Units ..... 62

710 Drainage System Sizing ..... 62

711 Offsets in Drainage Piping in Buildings of Five Stories or More ..... 64

712 Sumps and Ejectors ..... 64

713 Health Care Plumbing ..... 65

714 Computerized Drainage Design ..... 67

715 Backwater Valves ..... 67

**CHAPTER 8 INDIRECT/SPECIAL WASTE ..... 69**

Section

801 General ..... 69

802 Indirect Wastes ..... 69

803 Special Wastes ..... 70

804 Materials, Joints and Connections ..... 70

**CHAPTER 9 VENTS ..... 71**

Section

901 General ..... 71

902 Materials ..... 71

903 Vent Terminals ..... 71

904 Outdoor Vent Extensions ..... 71

905 Vent Connections and Grades ..... 72

906 Vent Pipe Sizing ..... 72

907 Vents for Stack Offsets ..... 74

908 Relief Vents—Stacks of More Than 10 Branch Intervals ..... 74

909 Fixture Vents ..... 74

910 Individual Vent ..... 75

911 Common Vent ..... 75

912 Wet Venting ..... 75

913 Waste Stack Vent ..... 75

914 Circuit Venting ..... 76

915 Combination Waste and Vent System ..... 76

916 Island Fixture Venting ..... 77

917 Single Stack Vent System ..... 77

918 Air Admittance Valves ..... 78

919 Engineered Vent Systems ..... 78

920 Computerized Vent Design ..... 79

**CHAPTER 10 TRAPS, INTERCEPTORS AND SEPARATORS ..... 81**

Section

1001 General ..... 81

1002 Trap Requirements ..... 81

1003 Interceptors and Separators ..... 82

1004 Materials, Joints and Connections ..... 83

**CHAPTER 11 STORM DRAINAGE ..... 85**

Section

1101 General ..... 85

1102 Materials ..... 85

1103 Traps ..... 86

1104 Conductors and Connections ..... 86

1105 Roof Drains ..... 86

1106 Size of Conductors, Leaders and Storm Drains ..... 86

1107 Siphonic Roof Drainage Systems ..... 94

1108 Secondary (Emergency) Roof Drains ..... 94

1109 Combined Sanitary and Storm System ..... 95

1110 Values for Continuous Flow ..... 95

1111 Controlled Flow Roof Drain Systems . . . . . 95  
 1112 Subsoil Drains . . . . . 95  
 1113 Building Subdrains . . . . . 95  
 1114 Sumps and Pumping Systems . . . . . 95

**CHAPTER 12 SPECIAL PIPING AND STORAGE SYSTEMS . . . . . 97**

Section

1201 General . . . . . 97  
 1202 Medical Gases . . . . . 97  
 1203 Oxygen Systems . . . . . 97

**CHAPTER 13 GRAY WATER RECYCLING SYSTEMS . . . . . 99**

Section

1301 General . . . . . 99  
 1302 Systems for Flushing  
     Water Closets and Urinals . . . . . 100  
 1303 Subsurface Landscape Irrigation Systems . . . . . 100

**CHAPTER 14 REFERENCED STANDARDS . . . . . 103**

**APPENDIX A PLUMBING PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE . . . . . 113**

Permit Issuance . . . . . 113  
 Unit Fee Schedule . . . . . 113  
 Other Inspections and Fees . . . . . 113

**APPENDIX B RATES OF RAINFALL FOR VARIOUS CITIES . . . . . 115**

**APPENDIX C VACUUM DRAINAGE SYSTEM . . . . . 117**

Section

C101 Vacuum Drainage System . . . . . 117

**APPENDIX D DEGREE DAY AND DESIGN TEMPERATURES . . . . . 119**

**APPENDIX E SIZING OF WATER PIPING SYSTEM . . . . . 125**

Section

E101 General . . . . . 125  
 E102 Information Required . . . . . 125  
 E103 Selection of Pipe Size . . . . . 125  
 E201 Selection of Pipe Size . . . . . 142  
 E202 Determination of Pipe Volumes . . . . . 142

**APPENDIX F STRUCTURAL SAFETY . . . . . 147**

Section

F101 Cutting, Notching and Boring in  
     Wood Members . . . . . 147

**INDEX . . . . . 149**

# PREFACE

## Introduction

Internationally, code officials recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date plumbing code addressing the design and installation of plumbing systems through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Plumbing Code*<sup>®</sup>, in this 2012 edition, is designed to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

This comprehensive plumbing code establishes minimum regulations for plumbing systems using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new plumbing designs. This 2012 edition is fully compatible with all of the *International Codes*<sup>®</sup> (I-Codes<sup>®</sup>) published by the International Code Council (ICC)<sup>®</sup>, including the *International Building Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Energy Conservation Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Existing Building Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Fire Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Fuel Gas Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Green Construction Code*<sup>™</sup> (to be available March 2012), *International Mechanical Code*<sup>®</sup>, *ICC Performance Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Property Maintenance Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Residential Code*<sup>®</sup>, *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*<sup>™</sup> (to be available March 2012), *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*<sup>®</sup> and *International Zoning Code*<sup>®</sup>.

The *International Plumbing Code* provisions provide many benefits, among which is the model code development process that offers an international forum for plumbing professionals to discuss performance and prescriptive code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

## Development

The first edition of the *International Plumbing Code* (1995) was the culmination of an effort initiated in 1994 by a development committee appointed by the ICC and consisting of representatives of the three statutory members of the International Code Council at that time, including: Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI). The intent was to draft a comprehensive set of regulations for plumbing systems consistent with and inclusive of the scope of the existing model codes. Technical content of the latest model codes promulgated by BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI was utilized as the basis for the development. This 2012 edition presents the code as originally issued, with changes as reflected in the subsequent editions through 2009 and with changes approved through the ICC Code Development Process through 2010. A new edition such as this is promulgated every three years.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a plumbing code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

## Adoption

The *International Plumbing Code* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws. At the time of adoption, jurisdictions should insert the appropriate information in provisions requiring specific local information, such as the name of the adopting jurisdiction. These locations are shown in bracketed words in small capital letters in the code and in the sample ordinance. The sample adoption ordinance on page xi addresses several key elements of a code adoption ordinance, including the information required for insertion into the code text.

## Maintenance

The *International Plumbing Code* is kept up to date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

The contents of this work are subject to change both through the Code Development Cycles and the governmental body that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Codes and Standards Development Department of the International Code Council.

While the development procedure of the *International Plumbing Code* ensures the highest degree of care, ICC and ICC's members and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions, since ICC and its members do not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

## Code Development Committee Responsibilities (Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers)

In each code development cycle, proposed changes to the code are considered at the Code Development Hearings by the International Plumbing Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed change. Proposed changes to a code section that has a number beginning with a letter in brackets are considered by a different code development committee. For example, proposed changes to code sections that have [B] in front of them (e.g. [B] 309.2) are considered by the appropriate International Building Code Development Committee (IBC-General) at the code development hearings.

The content of sections in this code that begin with a letter designation is maintained by another code development committee in accordance with the following:

- [A] = Administrative Code Development Committee;
- [B] = International Building Code Development Committee (IBC—Fire Safety, General, Means of Egress or Structural);
- [E] = International Energy Conservation Code Development Committee;
- [F] = International Fire Code Development Committee; and
- [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee.