



PART

1

International Plumbing Code

Chapters 1 through 15

- **Chapter 1** Scope and Administration
No changes addressed
- **Chapter 2** Definitions
- **Chapter 3** General Regulations
- **Chapter 4** Fixtures, Faucets and Fixture Fittings
- **Chapter 5** Water Heaters
- **Chapter 6** Water Supply and Distribution
- **Chapter 7** Sanitary Drainage
- **Chapter 8** Indirect/Special Waste
No changes addressed
- **Chapter 9** Vents
- **Chapter 10** Traps, Interceptors and Separators
- **Chapter 11** Storm Drainage
- **Chapter 12** Special Piping and Storage Systems
- **Chapter 13** Nonpotable Water Systems
- **Chapter 14** Subsurface Landscape Irrigation Systems **No changes addressed**
- **Chapter 15** Referenced Standards
No changes addressed

Chapter 1 of the *International Plumbing Code*® (IPC®) clarifies how the code will be enforced by code officials. Chapter 2 contains definitions of plumbing code terminology. General regulations in Chapter 3 identify requirements not listed in other code chapters, such as testing and inspections. Fixtures and water heaters are addressed in Chapters 4 and 5, respectively. Chapters 6 and 7 regulate water and drainage piping systems. Indirect and special waste is covered in Chapter 8. Chapter 9 details acceptable venting methodologies with in-depth provisions for piping arrangements. Chapter 10 contains the provisions for traps and various receptors. Storm drainage, with its collection system piping provisions, is covered in Chapter 11. Installation, design, storage, handling and use of nonflammable medical gas systems are addressed in Chapter 12. Nonpotable water systems such as those for the storage, treatment, and use of gray water, rainwater, reclaimed water and alternate on-site nonpotable water are addressed in Chapter 13. Methods for the use of nonpotable water for subsurface irrigation are addressed in Chapter 14. Standards referenced by the code sections are indicated in Chapter 15 along with specific details about the applicable edition year and title. Appendices A through E cover nonmandatory provisions for permit fees, rainfall rates, degree design temperature, water (piping) sizing methods and structural integrity protection rules for the notching of and boring of holes in wood and steel members. New Appendix F establishes rules for a board of appeals. ■

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CHANGE TYPE: Clarification

CHANGE SUMMARY: The term “copper alloy” is used in numerous locations in the code text. The new definition broadly describes the entire range of copper alloy materials that a manufacturer might use for a product.

2021 CODE: **COPPER ALLOY.** A metal alloy where the principle component is copper.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: The addition of this definition to the code is a simple clarification to support the use of the term “copper alloy” throughout the code. Long ago, the term for alloys of copper used in the plumbing industry was “brass” (e.g., typically red brass or yellow brass). However, brasses are only one group of a wider array of copper alloys that a manufacturer might wish to use for products. In 1974, a unified numbering system (UNS) was created to classify copper alloys. Because the term “brass” may not necessarily be technically correct for all products, “copper alloy” is used to cover all possible materials that are alloys of copper.

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Definition of Copper Alloy

Unified Numbering System Ranges for Copper Alloys

Wrought Products

C100xx-C150xx Cu Commercially Pure Copper
 C151xx-C199xx Age Hardenable Cu (w/ Cd, Be, Cr, Fe)
 C2xxxx Cu-Zn alloys Brasses
 C3xxxx Cu-Zn-Pb alloys Leaded brasses
 C4xxxx Cu-Zn-Sn alloys Tin bronzes
 C5xxxx Cu-Sn and Cu-Sn-Pb Phosphor bronze alloys
 C6xxxx Cu-Al and Cu-Si Bronzes
 C7xxxx Cu-Ni Copper Nickel and Cu-Ni-Zn Nickel Silver

Cast Products

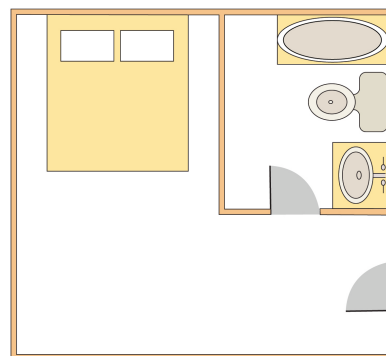
C800xx-C811xx Commercially Pure Coppers
 C813xx-C828xx 95-99% Copper
 C833xx-C899xx Cu-Zn alloys containing Sn, Pb, Mn, or Si
 C9xxxx Other alloys, including tin bronze, aluminum bronze, copper nickel

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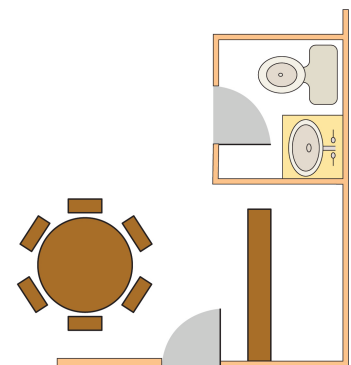
Definition of Public and Private

CHANGE TYPE: Modification**CHANGE SUMMARY:** The definitions of “public” and “private” are simplified to make a clearer distinction as to which plumbing fixtures are intended to be configured for public use.**2021 CODE: 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.~~**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.~~**CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE:** The definition of “public” is aligned with that of standards ASME A112.18.1, *Plumbing Supply Fittings*, and ASHRAE 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings*, to minimize the number of lavatory fixture fittings (faucets) that must comply with the code’s public use requirements for 1) discharging only tempered water and 2) having a flow rate of not greater than 0.5 gpm.

Public lavatory faucets are the only plumbing fixtures required by the code to discharge tempered (between 85 and 110°F) water. The revised definitions have little, if any, impact on public lavatories. However, as the terms “public” and “private” are used throughout the code for purposes beyond identifying lavatory types, the revised definitions could give new meaning to other code sections even though the approved proposal may not have intended to change the meaning in those contexts.



Hotel room
“private”
plumbing fixtures



Hotel lobby
“public”
plumbing fixtures

International Code Council

Public versus private uses

CHANGE TYPE: Modification

CHANGE SUMMARY: A bottled water unit is no longer defined by the code as a water dispenser.

2021 CODE: 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.~~

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: Section 410.4 uses the term “water dispenser” concerning a substitution for drinking fountains. The definition change results in the elimination of bottled water units and other self-contained potable water dispensing apparatus as a code-sanctioned alternative to some number of drinking fountains. Although the proposal’s reason statement did not mention this impact, referencing the term’s revised definition when interpreting Section 410.4 may lead the reader to that conclusion.

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Definition of Water Dispenser



International Code Council

Bottled water unit is not a water dispenser