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# ***THE PLUMBLINE***

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October 2016 Issue

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## **THREE COMMON CONTRACTOR SCAMS**

### **1. Pay Up Front and Hope They Show Up**

Depending on the size of the job, it isn't terribly uncommon for contractors to ask for a down payment; however, consumers should be real cautious with this. Not all, but in most cases, legitimate contractors have sufficient financial backing to cover front-end costs...especially small jobs.

### **2. Price Changing**

The ole bait & switch routine is something that happens often. In other words, the contractor comes in with a very low bid to get the job and then tells you that due to unforeseen circumstances the prices have to go up.

### **3. No Paperwork**

Consumers, especially trusting ones, tend to rely on a person's word instead of written agreements, and this is where the trouble starts.

Most construction-based contractors such as heating & air, plumbers, electricians, etc., are regulated by governmental agencies / Boards. Consumers can call these agencies for guidance, inquiries, and do research on contractors that have been penalized for unlawful activities. Also, the Better Business Bureau is an excellent source for assistance.

While unscrupulous contractors give all contractors a bad name, most contractors are fundamentally fair and honest. However, the bottom line is "buyers beware." Consumers must be vigilant and do their research when selecting contractors to perform work...even service work.

Watch out for the above three mentioned scams with a cautious eye and always ask for licensing and insurance. In addition, remember the ole metaphorical sayings "that if it doesn't pass the smell test" or "sounds too good to be true," use your gut instinct and stay clear of it.



## **NEW MEMBER TO COMMITTEE**

*Board of Health appoints new member to the Committee...*

During its quarterly meeting of July 28, 2016, the State Board of Health appointed Clay "Jamie" Brown as a master plumber representative to the State Committee of Plumbing Examiners. Mr. Brown hails from Prescott and the only member from the southern part of the state.

## **NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION AND USE**

A line pressure regulator shall be installed where the appliance is designed to operate at a lower pressure than the supply pressure. On occasion, it is necessary to install a pressure regulator on the natural gas piping system; generally, the regulator is installed at the meter and low pressure is supplied to the appliances from that point. At times, the meter connection may be at a location away from the structure being served and the regulator is installed at the entrance to the building, and in other cases, a regulator may be installed at each gas appliance served.

**Section 410 Flow Controls** outlines the rules and regulations pertaining to the installation of gas regulators. First, always check the regulator to see if it is capable of supplying enough gas for the project, regulators are rated in terms of capacity of flow in cubic feet per hour (cfh). Regulator capacities may vary depending on the use, the capacity of a regulator serving a single appliance may differ from that same regulator serving multiple appliances, and the supply pressure is a factor as well.

Always obtain the regulator capacities and the manufacturer's installation instructions before installing a natural gas regulator.

Venting of the regulators is an important factor to consider when determining regulator placement. When regulators are installed outside care should be taken not to install them in areas where the vent from the regulator could be pulled into the structure. If it is not possible to isolate the regulator from an intake opening into the structure or the ventilation air intake of the HVAC/R equipment the regulator vent may be piped away from the opening to a safe distance before termination.

The vent designed to prevent the entry of insects, water and foreign objects, additionally the vent piping shall be of approved material. When regulators are installed indoors; regulators requiring a vent shall be vented directly to the outdoors, a vent to the outdoors is not required for regulators equipped with and labeled for utilization with an approved vent-limiting device installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

**Gas meter placement**

**Section 401.1.2 Meter Location accessible and acceptable.** States in part that, "Location, space requirements, dimensions and type of installation shall be acceptable to the gas company." The local gas company has the authority to determine where the consumer meter is to be placed and what type of piping arrangement is acceptable. In most cases, the local gas company has placement requirements that include a distance of the meter and regulator placement from any source of spark or ignition. The local gas company should be contacted to determine their requirements.

***When is it ok to use single wall flue pipe?***

Single-wall metal vent pipe is very limited in scope of use. Section 503.7 pertains to Single-wall metal pipe and explains its limitations, some of the limitations include; single-wall metal pipe shall not originate in an unoccupied attic or concealed space and shall not pass through any attic, inside wall, concealed space, or floor. Additionally the limitations of use for single-wall vent connectors may be found in Section 503.10, some of the limitations include; Single-wall connectors shall not pass through any wall, floor or ceiling, except as permitted in Sections 503.7.4 and 503.10.15.

**Example:** In a residential structure; a gas water heater is installed in a closet located in the garage. The plumber used single wall pipe from the water heater to the ceiling where the flue material was changed to type B before entering the attic. Section 503.10.2.2; Vent connectors located in unconditioned areas pertains to this situation.

Where the vent connector used for an appliance having a draft hood or a Category I appliance is **located in** or passes through attics, crawl spaces or other unconditioned spaces, that portion of the vent connector shall be listed Type B, Type L or listed vent material having equivalent insulation properties.

**Exception:** Single-wall metal pipe located **within the exterior walls** of the building in areas having a local 99-percent winter design temperature of 5°F (-15°C) or higher shall be permitted to be used in unconditioned spaces **other than attics and crawl spaces.**

**COMMITTEE OF PLUMBING EXAMINERS  
HEARINGS FOR 2015 & 2016**

**NAME LIC. STATUS FINE CITY**

Josh Johnson	Master Plbr	\$1,000	Springdale
Perry Roberts	Master Plbr	\$1,000	Texarkana
Thomas McNeill	Journeyman	\$1,000 & Rev	Van Buren
Richard Barrows	Master Plbr	\$2,000 & Rpd	Springdale
Berkeley Boston	Master Plbr	\$250	W. Memphis
Ton Inglehart	Unlicensed	\$250	Hot Springs
Brad Fason	Master Plbr	\$2,000	NLR
Allen Davis	Unlicensed	\$4,000	Texarkana
Jack Morreto	Master Plbr	\$1,000	Bentonville
Nathan Kemper	Unlicensed	\$4,000	Conway
Jimmy Elkins	Master Plbr	\$ 500	Cabot
Christopher Row	Unlicensed	\$ 250	Cabot
Josh Johnson	Master Plbr	\$1,000 & Rev	Springdale

**• 2016 & 2017 Inspector Training Dates  
(Bring Code Books!)**

08.11.16 - 08.12.16	A.R.W.A. 240 Dee Dee Lane	Lonoke
09.15.16 - 09.16.16	Paragould Community Center 3404 Linwood Drive	Paragould
10.13.16 - 10.14.16	Rogers Youth Center 315 West Olive	Rogers
11.17.16 - 11.18.16	Dardanelle Community Center 2011 Hwy 22	Dardanelle
01.12.17 - 01.13.17	A.R.W.A. 240 Dee Dee Lane	Lonoke
02.09.17 - 02.10.17	Ouachita Technical College Lector Hall #1 College Circle	Malvern
03.16.17 - 03.17.17	Baxter Co. Emergency Service Training Center 170 Dillard Road	Midway
04.13.17 - 04.14.17	UA Community College Hempstead Hall 2500 S. Main Street	Hope

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**DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?**

If you would like to offer comments, suggestions, or ideas for articles, please let us know. The articles must be about industry related activities such as public service announcements, obituaries, technical papers, or opinions. You may contact Bob Higginbottom @ 501-661-2642.