
THE PLUMBLINE

April 2016 Issue

TECHNOLOGY AND PLUMBING

Let's face the facts it is 2016 and technology is having an impact on the plumbing industry and the products available. We have said this before, water distribution and drain systems are the core of the plumbing profession, but the fixtures have changed dramatically.

With new technologies come new applications in areas one would not have thought of in the past, no longer are bathrooms used for just their functionality. No, they are now places of intermingled technologies from LED lighted shower systems with Wi-Fi sound systems for your showering pleasure and mood lighting, but also LED commodes for night lights and temperature status of hot and cold water. Heck! We don't even call it a master bath anymore, oh no, this now your en-suite or private bath.

Kitchen sinks have a vast array of choices, insta-hot scalding water at your fingertips (warn the children!), single handle hot and cold controls and sprayers hidden in the body of the faucet! Not to mention the air gap devices, soap dispensers and garbage disposal controls. This is known because it has been reported that many people have walked up to a kitchen sink and just stared...marveling at the gadgetry...asking how do you turn the water on?

Why with all the new-fangled fixtures the older generations look at the faucets in bewilderment! No longer are the options a hot and cold tap, no we have infrared automatic faucets and flush valves for the germ adverse. They have been on the market long enough now it believed most people have realized how to activate, but it took some time. However, people sometimes have no idea what to do with these and just walk away.

Perhaps too many choices are offered with these types of systems. That really is a possibility, but going into the

future more fixtures will incorporate electronics and a new breed of hybrid plumbers will emerge with a deeper knowledge of how computer interaction with plumbing is inevitable.

Now, if we could just be certain the infrastructure will be there to support this in a safe manner, life will be good!

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

WET VENTING

It seems there are still some questions about wet venting. Wet vents are allowed, but they are only for fixtures that are within two bathroom groups as defined in section 202 of the code.

Most commonly, we see horizontal wet venting. Remember, however, only one wet vented fixture can be up stream of the wet vent and no other fixtures can drain into the wet vent, whether they are vented or not. Also, remember the drainage fixture unit load (dfu) of the wet vent is smaller than that of the same size pipe's drainage fixture unit load. For example a 2" horizontal branch can receive 6 dfu's (table 710.1(2)), but the same size wet vent can only receive 4 dfu's (table 909.3).

SECTION 311 TOILET FACILITIES FOR WORKERS

State Plumbing Code 311.1 General. One per 25 toilet facilities shall be provided for construction workers and such facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition. Construction worker toilet facilities of the non-sewer type shall conform to ANSI Z4.3. *(next page)*



Construction employees must have plumbing facilities available to them during the construction of a building. Toilet facilities do not mean building a lean-to or some other forms of make-shift construction, but rather toilet facilities that are private and sanitary. These facilities may be either permanent or portable. Portable facilities are regulated by ANSI Z4.3, which specifies various construction requirements.

These are the requirements as of now, but may be removed in future codes.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS WATER (CAW)

Plumbing Inspections about to change for Pulaski County area plumbers...

It appears there are changes underway that will lead to the cities of Little Rock and North Little Rock reducing their coverages areas back to their city limits. In past, both LR & NLR inspected plumbing systems outside the scope of their cities that were connected to Central Arkansas Water (CAW) water systems. While the details are still being worked out, expect CAW to start making their own inspections starting July 2016.

More to come about this...Stay tuned!

Proper Bedding and Backfill

Section 306. Trenching, Excavation and backfill.

Anyone that has ever tried to dig a hole in Arkansas knows how difficult it can be, with the possible exception of the eastern part of the state, you will find more rocks than dirt. With that fact in mind, particular attention should be paid to the proper bedding and backfilling of plumbing work installed underground.

Numerous topics are covered in Section 306 of the code. They include, trenching and bedding, over excavation, rock removal, soft load-bearing materials, backfilling, and tunneling. Common sense should always be used, if digging a trench and the material is almost entirely slate, shale or large rocks, damage is almost certain to occur to the piping. PVC drainage piping along with all types of water piping is susceptible to damage from improper bedding or backfilling material, most if not all PEX manufacturer's specifically require "good clean fill or sand" for bedding and backfilling.

Common sense should be used, after the piping ditch is excavated, if it is obvious that better bedding or fill is necessary it is better to deal with it on the front end, than have the plumbing inspector deal with it on the backend.

ASTM D2321 is the standard practice for underground installation of thermoplastic piping, this standard can be on-line for additional information.

FINAL INSPECTIONS ARE REQUIRED

For some unknown reason, plumbers will not call for their final plumbing inspections. Not so much on commercial buildings but more so on residential. Section 107.1 (3), of the code addresses this.

It also appears in the small cities and water systems, commercial plumbing jobs are starting before plan approval. Section 104.7.1 of the code addresses this.

Failure to obtain final inspections and plan review approval will result in needless delays and could result in action taken against those responsible. BE ADVISED!

- **2016 Inspector Training Dates**
(Bring Code Books!)

01.14.16	A.R.W.A.	Lonoke
01.15.16	240 Dee Dee Lane	
	College of Ouachita	
02.11.16 -	Lecture Hall	Malvern
02.12.16	#1 College Circle	
	Baxter Co. Emer. Services	
03.17.16 -	Training Center	Midway
03.18.16	170 Dillard Road	
	UA Community College	Hope
04.07.16 -	Hempstead Hall	
04.08.16	2500 South Main Street	
	A.R.W.A.	Lonoke
08.11.16 -	240 Dee Dee Lane	
08.12.16		
	Paragould Community	Paragould
09.15.16 -	Center	
09.16.16		
	Rogers Youth Center	Rogers
10.13.16 -	315 W. Olive	
10.14.16		
	Dardanelle Community	Dardanelle
11.17.16 -	Center, HWY 22	
11.18.16		

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.