

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD
IAPMO/ANSI UPC 1 - 2012

2012 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE®



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An American National Standard

IAPMO/ANSI UPC 1-2012

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Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 14.

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2012 UPC Foreword

The advantages of a uniform plumbing code adopted by various local jurisdictions have long been recognized. Disorder in the industry as a result of widely divergent plumbing practices and the use of many different, often conflicting, plumbing codes by local jurisdictions influenced the Western Plumbing Officials Association (now the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials [IAPMO]) to form a committee of plumbing inspectors, master and journeyman plumbers, and sanitary and mechanical engineers, assisted by public utility companies and the plumbing industry to create a basic plumbing document for general use. The product of this effort, the first edition of the *Uniform Plumbing Code*[™] (UPC[™]) was officially adopted by IAPMO in 1945. The widespread use of this code over the past five decades by jurisdictions throughout the United States and internationally is testament to its merit.

With the publication of the 2003 Edition of the *Uniform Plumbing Code*, another significant milestone was reached. For the first time in the history of the United States, a plumbing code was developed through a true consensus process. The 2012 edition represents the most current approaches in the plumbing field and is the fourth edition developed under the ANSI consensus process. Contributions to the content of the code were made by every segment of the built industry, including such diverse interests as consumers, enforcing authorities, installers/maintainers, labor, manufacturers, research/standards/testing laboratories, special experts, and users.

The UPC is designed to provide consumers with safe and sanitary plumbing systems while, at the same time, allowing latitude for innovation and new technologies. The public at large is encouraged and invited to participate in IAPMO's open consensus code development process. This code is updated every three years. A code development timeline and other relevant information is available at IAPMO's website at www.iapmo.org.

The *Uniform Plumbing Code* is dedicated to all those who, in working to achieve "the ultimate plumbing code," have unselfishly devoted their time, effort, and personal funds to create and maintain this, the finest plumbing code in existence today.

The 2012 *Uniform Plumbing Code* is supported by the American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE), the Mechanical Contractors Association of America (MCAA), the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association (PHCC-NA), the United Association (UA), and the World Plumbing Council (WPC). The presence of these logos, while reflecting support, does not imply any ownership of the copyright to the UPC, which is held exclusively by IAPMO. Further, the logos of these associations indicates the support of IAPMO's open, consensus process being used to develop IAPMO's codes and standards.

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WPC – World Plumbing Council Secretariat

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FORM FOR PROPOSALS ON IAPMO UPC/UMC COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS

NOTE: All Proposals MUST be received by 5:00 PM PST on January 3, 2013.

For further information on the standards-making process, please contact the
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CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION

101.0 General.

101.1 Title. This document shall be known as the "Uniform Plumbing Code," may be cited as such, and will be referred to herein as "this code."

101.2 Scope. The provisions of this code shall apply to the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, use, or maintenance of plumbing systems within this jurisdiction.

101.3 Purpose. This code is an ordinance providing minimum requirements and standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

101.4 Conflicts Between Codes. Where the requirements within the jurisdiction of this plumbing code conflict with the requirements of the mechanical code, this code shall prevail. In instances where the code, applicable standards, or the manufacturer's installation instructions conflict, the more stringent provisions shall prevail. Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall prevail.

101.5 Plans Required. The Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be permitted to require the submission of plans, specifications, drawings, and such other information in accordance with the Authority Having Jurisdiction, prior to the commencement of, and at a time during the progress of, work regulated by this code.

The issuance of a permit upon plans and specifications shall not prevent the Authority Having Jurisdiction from thereafter requiring the correction of errors in said plans and specifications or from preventing construction operations being carried on thereunder where in violation of this code or of other pertinent ordinance or from revoking a certificate of approval where issued in error.

101.6 Repairs and Alterations. In existing buildings or premises in which plumbing installations are to be altered, repaired, or renovated, deviations from the provisions of this code are permitted, provided such deviations are found to be necessary and are first approved by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

101.6.1 Building Sewers and Drains. Existing building sewers and building drains shall be permitted to be used in connection with new buildings or new plumbing and drainage work where they are found on examination and test to be in accordance with the requirements governing new work, and the proper Authority Having Jurisdiction shall notify the owner to make changes necessary to be in accordance with this code. No building, or part thereof, shall be erected or placed over a part of a drainage system that is constructed of materials other than those approved elsewhere in this code for use under or within a building.

101.6.2 Openings. Openings into a drainage or vent system, excepting those openings to which plumbing fixtures are properly connected or which constitute vent terminals, shall be permanently plugged or capped in an approved manner, using the appropriate materials in accordance with this code.

101.7 Maintenance. The plumbing and drainage system of a premises under the Authority Having Jurisdiction shall be maintained in a sanitary and safe operating condition by the owner or the owner's agent.

101.8 Existing Construction. No provision of this code shall be deemed to require a change in a portion of a plumbing or drainage system or other work regulated by this code in or on an existing building or lot where such work was installed and is maintained in accordance with law in effect prior to the effective date of this code, except where such plumbing or drainage system or other work regulated by this code is determined by the Authority Having Jurisdiction to be in fact dangerous, unsafe, insanitary, or a nuisance and a menace to life, health, or property.

101.9 Additions, Alterations, or Repairs. Additions, alterations, repairs, and replacement of plumbing systems shall comply with the provisions for new systems except as otherwise provided in Section 101.11.

101.10 Appendices. The provisions in the appendices are intended to supplement the requirements of this code and shall not be considered part of this code unless formally adopted as such.

101.11 Application to Existing Plumbing System. Additions, alterations, or repairs shall be permitted to be made to a plumbing system without requiring the existing plumbing system to be in accordance with the requirements of this code, provided the addition, alteration, or repair is in accordance with that required for a new plumbing system. Additions, alterations, or repairs shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe, insanitary, or overloaded.

101.11.1 Health and Safety. Where compliance with the provisions of this code fail to eliminate or alleviate a nuisance, or other dangerous or insanitary condition that involves health or safety hazards, the owner or the owner's agent shall install such additional plumbing and drainage facilities or shall make such repairs or alterations as ordered by the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

101.11.2 Existing Installation. Plumbing systems lawfully in existence at the time of the adoption of this code shall be permitted to have their use, maintenance, or repair continued where the use, maintenance, or repair is in accordance with the original design and location and no hazard to life, health, or property has been created by such plumbing system.