

Plumbing Guidelines for Lancaster City

Plumbing license categories are as follows:

Master Licensed Plumber – May operate independently. May employ Journeyman and Apprentice licensed plumbers. May obtain permits.

Journeyman Licensed Plumber – Must operate under and be employed by a Master Licensed Plumber. May obtain permits while under the employment of a Master Licensed Plumber with the same firm.

Apprentice Licensed Plumber – May only perform work while in the presence of a Master Licensed Plumber or Licensed Journeyman Plumber with the same firm.

The following is an outline of what work requires a licensed plumber:

1. Any change to, repair or addition to, or replacement of any portion or component of a building pipe, stack, drain or vent component of the plumbing system.
2. Any change to any portion or component of a combined sewage and storm water system (which includes the sewer lateral outside and any downspout connections to the combined system).
3. The **connection of** any storm water line **only** to a city main and the building connection to the same system must be accomplished by a licensed plumber.
4. Any change to, repair or addition to, or replacement of any portion or component of a domestic potable water distribution line component of the plumbing system.
5. Replacement or installation of the water service lateral from the curb box into the building.
6. Replacement or installation of fire service mains from the box valve into the building.
7. Any change to, repair or addition to, or replacement of any portion or component of the water supply to a hydronic heating system (boiler), up to the back flow preventer valve, but not including the hydronic piping after the boiler
8. Bathtub/shower replacements/renovations.
9. Installation of any whirlpool type tub fixture utilizing air or electric pumps.

A Permit is NOT required from Code Compliance for exterior domestic water line installations; however, approval and inspections are performed by the City Water Bureau prior to concealment. Fire mains also require inspection and approval from the Public Works Engineering Bureau and the City Fire Marshal's Office.

**** “S” type traps are prohibited. “P” traps are required.** Anti-siphon traps may be installed in retrofit situations where “P” traps will not work with existing pipe configurations.

The following is an outline of what plumbing work does not require a licensed plumber or permit:

1. The stopping of leaks in exposed drains, water, soil, waste or vent pipes.
Replacement of defective piping requires a licensed plumber and a permit.
2. The clearing of stoppages or the repairing of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures and the removal and re-installation of water closets, provided that such repairs do not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves or pipes. In kind fixture replacements or repairs to faucets, small vanities or kitchen sinks and commodes (water closets).
Drainage pipes for storm water below grade requires a licensed plumber for repairs and/or replacement.

Water heater replacements require a permit but not a licensed plumber. Any change to the potable water system piping for water heater installations requires a licensed plumber.

Common sewer line repairs/replacements (serving multiple dwellings) cannot result in the downsizing of the common line diameter.

Plumbing inside a single family owner occupied dwelling.

Owners of owner occupied single family dwellings are permitted to do work on their plumbing systems on the interior of their home.

Any remodeling, changes to or additions to the potable water supply system, venting or drain systems does require a permit from Code Compliance and inspections and approvals from a City Code Official. Fixture changes such as toilets, sinks, and faucets do not require a permit or inspections. Shower mixing valve replacement does require a permit.

Water heater replacement requires a permit and inspection, both gas and electric.

Any outside help brought in for plumbing work must be licensed by the City.

Any work involving any portion of the sanitary building drain system or combined sewage storm water system, or common sewer line or water service line outside the building must be done by a licensed plumber.