



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
Washington  
COUNTIES

A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

Tri-County Service Center

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# News *Splash*

A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

January-March 2003

## Plumbing code set for forum January 23

The Local 290 Training Center is sponsoring a free forum on plumbing code issues, 4-7 p.m., Thursday, January 23, at the Clackamas County Auditorium, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard in Clackamas.

Qualifying participants may receive three hours of code-related credit from BCD or three hours HSW credit from AIA.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss regional code applications and reach consensus on stan-

dards for the tri-county region. All plumbing contractors, plumbers, architects, and building-department personnel in the tri-county area are invited. Questions are welcome. Please submit questions to the center before each forum.

### January 23 agenda

- Update on statewide code interpretations: Terry Swisher, state code chief
- Open forum: panel and participants

## Questions and answers from October 17 forum

Tri-county building officials have agreed to use the code panel's determinations for inspection standards. Check with the local jurisdiction for standards if you work outside the tri-county region. Contractors and building-department personnel may send questions for the code panel to Joanie.M.Stevens-Schwenger@state.or.us or fax them to the center, (503) 872-6731.

An answer-request form is available on the BCD Web site, [www.oregonbcd.org](http://www.oregonbcd.org). Click on "Tri-County" and then "Code Forum Program."

### Q Under what circumstances can a nylon zip tie be used as a pipe strap for pex pipe?

A This application can be used for bundling or securing, not supporting purposes, unless the zip tie is listed for that application.

### Q Does the connection of the irrigation system to the domestic water service and the piping from there to the backflow-protection device need to be left open for inspection?

A Yes.

### Q Is the plastic backing plate provided by the valve manufacturer adequate support for a shower or tub and shower valve by itself, with no connection to the structure?

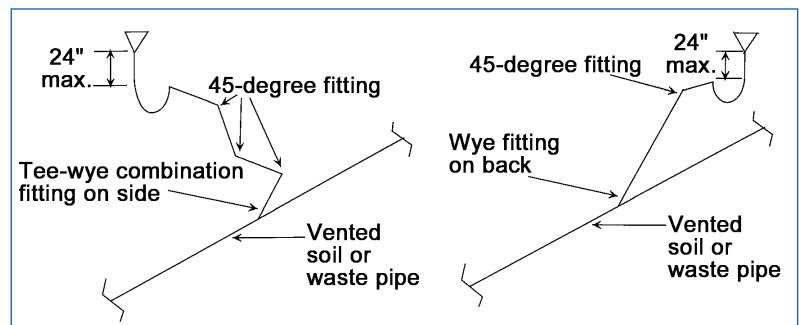
A No, unless the plate is listed for that application.

### Q Is 3/8-inch water piping permitted by code?

A Half-inch pipe is the minimum that can be used for water distribution according to Chapter 6. Three-eighths-inch tubing can be used as a properly sized fixture supply. Three-eighths-inch tubing also may be used in an Appendix A system.

### Q Is it acceptable to offset a trap arm with a 45-degree fitting to raise up to the fixture tailpipe on a vented line, as addressed in Section 1006.0?

A Yes, Section 1006.0 allows exemption from the provisions requiring individual vents for each trap, including traps for floor drains, floor sinks, funnel drains, area drains, catch basins and receptors within a building discharging to a vented soil or waste pipe under specific conditions. Because of the depth of the building drain, often the provisions of Sections 910.5, Exception and 1001.4, come into play. To limit the length of the tailpiece, the installation methods illustrated below should be used:



Continued...



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*News Splash*

Mark your  
calendars!  
2003 plumbing-  
code forums

- January 23
- April 24
- September 4
- November 13

Earn code-related  
c o n t i n u i n g -  
education credits  
and contribute to  
the consistent  
application of the  
state plumbing  
code.

**Q** What fixtures are acceptable to drain into a vented floor sink without a primer under Section 1006.0?

**A** Standard sink fixtures, continuous-use type.

**Q** Are supply stops required at every plumbing fixture by code?

**A** No. Section 605.5 of the PSC references this question.

**Q** May discharge piping for water heater relief valves be connected?

**A** Yes. As long as the aggregate cross-sectional area is met.

**Q** When a horizontal vent pipe reaches its maximum allowable length, can it be increased in size at that point to extend its allowable length?

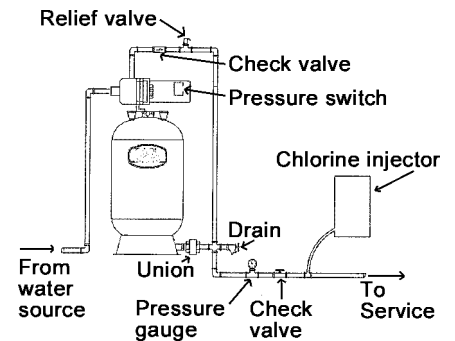
**A** Yes.

**Q** The Plumbing Code defines the “building supply” for water as the water meter or other source of water supply to the building or other point of use or distribution on the lot. When the water is supplied by a well, where does the plumbing inspection begin?

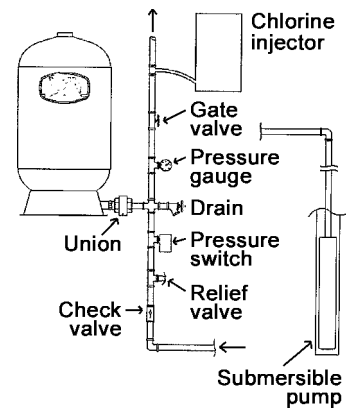
**A** The plumbing inspections begin at the valve at the outlet of the pressure tank. See the attached illustrations of the most common piping arrangements for pumped water supply systems. In both applications, the source of water supply is the last valve. (See illustration at right.)

**Q** Zoning codes require that private sewage disposal systems shall be connected to an approved septic system. Can a plumbing permit pass inspection if it does not meet the above criterion?

**Shallow-well or pressure-boosting system**



**Deep-well system**



**A** Yes, the building permit requires zoning approval. Local jurisdictions address this situation by issuing building permits. The DEQ inspects and approves the septic system. ●

440-2727 (12/02/COM)

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