

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CONSTRUCTION CODES SUPPLEMENT OF 2008  
DCMR 12F PLUMBING CODE SUPPLEMENT**

**CHAPTER 3F GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**SECTION P-301F GENERAL**

*Add new Section P-301.3.1 to the Plumbing Code to read as follows:*

**P-301.3.1 Wastewater.** Every improved lot in which plumbing fixtures are installed shall have its own independent sanitary or combined sewer connection to discharge liquid wastes and sewage to the available public system installed from the public way at a right angle to the street lot line or as approved by the administrative authority.

*Add new Section P-301.4.1 to the Plumbing Code to read as follows:*

**P-301.4.1 Domestic Water.** Every improved lot in which plumbing fixtures are installed shall have its own independent water connection to the available public system installed from the public way at a right angle to the street lot line or as approved by the administrative authority.

*Add new Section P-301.8 to the Plumbing Code to read as follows:*

**P-301.8 Public Systems Available.** A public water main or public sewer shall be considered available to a building when the premises are located within the distances specified below:

1. **One and two-family dwellings:** The lot is within 100 feet (30 480mm) of the public water main or sewer measured along the center line of the street or public way abutting the lot.
2. **Other occupancies:** The lot is within 250 feet (76 200mm) of the public water main or sewer measured along the center line of a street or public way abutting the lot.

**SECTION P-305F PROTECTION OF PIPES AND PLUMBING SYSTEM COMPONENTS**

*Add new Section P-305.10 to the Plumbing Code to read as follows:*

**P-305.10 Grounding Electrical Systems in existing structures.** Where water service is replaced in existing structures with approved plastic pipe, provision shall be made to replace any existing electrical grounding system, as needed, so as to conform to the National Electric Code as amended by the District of Columbia Electric Code Supplement.

## **SECTION P-306F TRENCHING, EXCAVATION AND BACKFILL**

*Add new Sections P-306.2.4 and P-306.2.5 to the Plumbing Code to read as follows:*

**P-306.2.4 Trench locations.** Trenches shall be of sufficient width to permit proper installation of pipe. Where shoring is required, ample allowance shall be made in trench width for proper working conditions. No house sewer or water service shall be laid within 4 feet (1219mm) parallel to any bearing wall nor within 3 feet (914mm) parallel to any lot line or lot line extended. Where permitted in the same trench with the house sewer, the water service pipe shall be placed on a shelf cut into solid ground at one side of the common trench at least 8 inches (203mm) from the edge of the ditch.

**P-306.2.5 Trench safeguards.** These requirements apply to any trench 4 feet (1219mm) or more of depth which serves as a workplace. The sides of all such trenches shall be securely supported by substantial and adequate sheeting, sheet piling, bracing, shoring or other approved method of support, or the sides of the excavation sloped to the angle of repose of the material being excavated, where there is apparent danger of slides, slips, cave-ins, or falling of earth and where the undercutting of banks or walls of the excavation is pertinent to the excavation system. Shoring will not be required where the trench is cut in solid rock or hard shale. All trenches shall be supplied with at least one ladder for each 50 feet (15 240mm) of length or fraction. The ladder shall extend from the bottom of the trench to at least 3 feet (914mm) above the surface of the ground. Minimum requirements for the size and spacing of trench shoring members shall be in accordance with current OSHA requirements.

## CHAPTER 6F WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

### SECTION P-604F DESIGN OF BUILDING WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Delete Table P- 604.4 and add new Table P-604.4 to the Plumbing Code to read as follows:

TABLE 604.4  
MAXIMUM FLOW RATES AND CONSUMPTION FOR  
PLUMBING FIXTURES AND FIXTURE FITTINGS

PLUMBING FIXTURE OR FIXTURE FITTING	MAXIMUM FLOW RATE OR QUANTITY <sup>b</sup>
Lavatory, private	1.5 gpm at 60psi
Lavatory, public, (metering)	0.25 gallon per metering cycle
Lavatory, public (other than metering)	0.5 gpm at 60 psi
Shower head <sup>a</sup>	2.0 gpm at 80psi
Sink faucet	2.2 gpm at 60 psi
Urinal	0.5 gallon per flushing cycle
Water closet (tank type) <sup>c</sup>	1.28 gallons per flushing cycle
Water closet (flushometer)	1.6 gallons per flushing cycle

For SI: 1 gallon per minute = 3.785 L/m,  
1 pound per square inch = .895 kPa

- a. A hand-held shower spray is a shower head
- b. Consumption tolerances shall be determined from referenced standards.
- c. Dual Flush Toilets - The effective flush volume shall not exceed 1.28 gallons (4.8 liters). The effective flush volume is defined as the composite, average flush volume of two reduced flushes and one full flush. Flush volumes will be tested in accordance with ASME A112.19.2 and ASME A112.19.14.

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#### Intent – water efficiency

The proposal amends the International Plumbing Code (IPC) to lower permitted waterflow conforming to the U.S. EPA WaterSense Program specifications for water closets and bathroom fixtures. These levels are also proposed in ASHRAE Standard 189.1P. All major manufacturers of water closets and bath fixtures manufacture products meeting these standards. For instance, over 120 models of toilets meet its standards. Many of these products cost no more than less efficient models and are already available locally. A listing of manufacturers can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/index.htm>.

The proposal will save millions of dollars in water bills over the next 20 years, make DC less vulnerable to droughts and benefit the Anacostia and Potomac rivers by reducing the severity of combined sewer overflows. In most cases, the proposals will not increase the cost of materials; in those cases where costs are increased, the payback from water cost savings is under three years.

### SECTION P-605F MATERIALS, JOINTS AND CONNECTIONS

*Delete the following Materials and Standards from Table 605.3 of the Plumbing Code:*

**TABLE P-605.3  
WATER SERVICE PIPE**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>
Asbestos-cement pipe material	ASTM C 296
Polybutylene (PB) plastic pipe and tubing material	ASTM D 2662; ASTM D 2666; ASTM D 3309; CSA B137.8M

*Delete the following Material and Standard from Table 605.4 of the Plumbing Code:*

**TABLE P-605.4  
WATER DISTRIBUTION PIPE**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>
Polybutylene (PB) plastic pipe and tubing material	ASTM D 3309; CSA B137.8M

*Delete the following Material and Standard from Table 605.5 of the Plumbing Code:*

**TABLE P-605.5  
PIPE FITTINGS**

<b>MATERIAL</b>	<b>STANDARD</b>
Polybutylene (PB) plastic	CSA B137.8

# CHAPTER 11F STORM DRAINAGE

## SECTION P-1101F GENERAL

Delete Section 1101.2 of the Plumbing Code in its entirety and add new Sections P-1101.2 through P-1101.2.2 to read as follows:

**P-1101.2 Where required:** Storm water drainage shall comply with sections P-1101.2.1 and P-1101.2.2.

**P-1101.2.1** Unless a construction project is otherwise exempt from the DC Storm Water Management Regulations, a permit shall not be issued for a building or structure associated with grading operations or construction, or both, that disturb more than 5,000 square feet (464.65m<sup>2</sup>) of land area, or that are part of an approved subdivision plan which contains provisions for storm water management, until the submitted plans reflect the pertinent storm water management features approved by the official charged with the administration and enforcement of the D.C. Storm Water Management Regulations, 21 DCMR §§ 526-535, and the requirements of D.C. Law 5-188, Water Pollution Control Act of 1984, as amended.

**P-1101.2.2** When approved, storm water may be discharged from roofs, paved areas, yards, courts, courtyards, downspouts, rain barrels, cisterns or rooftop storage facilities to vegetated areas such as lawns, gardens, grassy swales or bio-retention cells on the same single record lot. In such instances, the storm water shall flow away from the building and shall not flow over property lines onto adjacent lots unless it runs into existing natural water courses; otherwise, stormwater shall discharge to an approved place of disposal or into a storm sewer or combined sewer.

## SECTION P-1102F MATERIALS

Add the following material and standard to Table 1102.4 of the Plumbing Code:

**TABLE P-1102.4  
BUILDING STORM SEWER PIPE**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Polyethylene (PE) plastic pipe material	ASTM F2306/F2306M

Add the following material and standard to Table 1102.7 of the Plumbing Code:

**TABLE P-1102.7  
PIPE FITTINGS**

MATERIAL	STANDARD
Polyethylene (PE) plastic pipe material	ASTM F2306/F2306M