



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr- Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	Chapter 2 Definitions
Chapter 3 General Regulations	Chapter 4 Fixtures, Faucets, & Fittings
Chapter 5 Water Heaters	Chapter 6 Water Supply & Dist.
Chapter 7 Sanitary Drainage	Chapter 8 Ind./Special Waste
Chapter 9 Vents	Chapter 10 Traps, Inter. & Sep.
Chapter 11 Storm Drainage	APPENDIX A-H
Policy Statements	OTHER

301.4 - Question: We are setting up a temporary sales trailer. We are having trouble getting a water line over to the trailer. Can we use a tank and put signs at the Lavatory and Breakroom sink stating it is Non-Potable water? We will provide bottled water to drink.

Answer: This would not be acceptable. While bottled water would provide drinking water, the water at the lavatories and sinks must also be potable water for sanitary reasons.

305.6 - Question: Are thermal expansion tanks installed in unheated residential garages required to be insulated?

Answer: Yes. If the water piping in an unheated residential garage is required to be insulated then the thermal expansion tank is also required to be insulated.

308.3 - Question: I have been told that we cannot use plastic hanger strap in Mecklenburg County, is this true?

Answer: Yes, Sioux Chief put out a technical bulletin on June 18th stating that their extruded polypropylene hanger strap had temperature limitations. The maximum lowest temperature was 32 degrees and the maximum hottest



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

temperature was 120 degrees. This strapping was manufactured per the standard of ASTM D5857, which is a standard for extruded polypropylene. The temperature limitations are part of the standard. All the major manufactures of plastic hanger strapping use this standard.

Currently Mecklenburg County is not accepting plastic hanger strapping until more information can be provided to use by the manufacture's about the durability of this product.

See the attached email from Bill Moeller, NCDOT and the Tech Bulletin from Sioux Chief

312.2 - Question: Can I use the 3 foot above the highest drainage fitting on a commercial job?

Answer: No, the exception in 312.2 NCPC allows the rough plumbing to be tested with 3 foot of water above the highest drainage fitting is only for one- and two-family dwellings.

312.2 Drainage and vent water test. A water test shall be

applied to the drainage system within the building either in its entirety or in sections. If applied to the entire system, all openings in the piping shall be tightly closed, except the highest opening, and the system shall be filled with water to the point of overflow. If the system is tested in sections, each opening shall be tightly plugged except the highest openings of the section under test, and each section shall be filled with water, but no section shall be tested with less than a 10-foot (3048 mm) head of water. In testing successive sections, at least the upper 10 feet (3048 mm) of the next preceding section shall be tested so that no joint or pipe in the building, except the uppermost 10 feet (3048 mm) of the system, shall have been submitted to a test of less than a 10-foot (3048 mm) head of water. This pressure shall be held for at least 15 minutes. The system shall then be tight at all points.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Exception: Rough plumbing testing for one- and two-family dwellings shall be as specified above except the water level shall be a minimum of 3 feet (914 mm) above the highest drainage fitting.

312.5 - Question: Does a gauge have to be on the system for a WD test if they are using operating pressure?

Answer: Yes, per NCDOL's interpretation, working pressure is defined as 80 psi minimum. Without a gauge there is no way to determine if 80 psi is being applied to the system.

312.9 - Question: Are shower liner test required to be witnessed by the code official?

Answer: We reached out to NCDOL for clarification, this is the response: The definition of rough-in includes fixtures built into the structure. In order to properly install the shower liner and drain, the liner needs to be clamped or otherwise integrated into the drain body. Per section 107.3 of the administrative code work needs to be approved by the inspector prior to covering it up. Therefore there can be no final on a rough-in inspection until the inspector has witnessed the shower liner test and approved the installation.

403.2 - Question: I have come across a special request from client who would like to have their toilets designed to “European” standards where there is one toilet room that has private rooms/stalls with water closets but a common wash area for K-8 grade students. The code require separate facilities for each sex, but I am sure this sort of situation will come up more often now. There thought is that this will allow everyone equal choice...and they see it in Europe all the time as well as in childcare centers with “potties” that both sexes share between classrooms. Have you allowed such a common toilet facility yet?



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Answer: We have had these request before, but we are unable to approve them. For an alternate to be approved, it be must be equal to, or greater than what the minimum code requires.

403.9.5.4 - Question: Do modular classrooms need a covered walk way to restrooms within 200 feet?

Answer: No, Section 403.9.2 requires a covered walkway if the facilities are in an adjacent building, but Section 403.9.5.4 gives a specific requirement for modular classroom buildings and does not have the same requirement for a covered walkway.

403.9.5.4 Modular classroom buildings. Toilet rooms may be omitted in a modular classroom building when facilities of sufficient capacity for the additional occupants are provided in an adjacent building and located within 200 feet (61 m) of horizontal travel distance from the modular classroom.

405.3.1 - Question: If a fill in wall at the end of a tub is beside a watercloset and the wall does not go past the tank, is that an issue with the required side clearance for the watercloset?

Answer: a. If the fill in wall does not go past the tank, it does not apply to the side clearance of the watercloset.

405.3.1 - Question: For a watercloset, is the 15-inch side clearance measured from the curb of the shower, down low, or the glass of the shower?

Answer: The measurement would need to be taken from the curb. The glass is usually not present at the rough-in.

405.8 - Question: I was told I could not use a slip joint on an over flow on the tubs in a hotel project, is this true?



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Answer: Slip joint connections are allowed, if access is provided. If no access is provided, then they would need to be soldered, cemented or screwed to form a solid connection. 405.8 NCPC

407.2 - Question: Are over flows required on tubs in the current code? In the 2018 code?

Answer: Section 407.2 in the 2012 NCPC does not have a requirement for tubs to have an overflow. The 2018 NCPC will require overflows for all tubs.

2012 NCPC

407.2 Bathtub waste outlets. Bathtubs shall have waste outlets a minimum of 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) in diameter. The waste outlet shall be equipped with an approved stopper.

2018 NCPC

407.2 Bathtub waste outlets and overflows. Bathtubs shall be equipped with a waste outlet and an overflow outlet. The outlets shall be connected to waste tubing or piping not less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) in diameter. The waste outlet shall be equipped with a water-tight stopper.

417.3 - Question: Is it acceptable to remove a bathtub and install shower in it's place, keeping the 1.5 inch drain for the tub?

Answer: Yes, The exception to 417.3 allows pre-existing 1.5 inch waste outlets to be used when installing a shower in place of a tub.

417.3 Shower waste outlet. Waste outlets serving showers shall be at least 2 inches (51 mm) in diameter and, for other than waste outlets in bathtubs, shall have removable strainers not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in diameter with strainer openings not less than 1/4 inch (6.4 mm) in minimum dimension. Where each shower space is not provided with an individual waste outlet, the waste outlet shall be located and the floor pitched so that waste from one shower does not



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr- Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

flow over the floor area serving another shower. Waste outlets shall be fastened to the waste pipe in an approved manner.

Exception: Retaining pre-existing 11/2 inch (12.3 mm) in diameter waste outlets shall be permitted when removing an existing bathtub and installing in its place a shower.

417.5.2.6 - Question: There is a new paint on shower liner that is white in color. It does have an ANSI number on the bucket. Will Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement accept it?

Answer: It would be accepted if it complies with ANSI A118.10 and is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

421.5 - Question: Is there a maximum depth for pump access if you are required to have an 18x18 opening?

Answer: No, Section 421.5 does not have a maximum depth. The requirement for an 18 x 18 opening is only if the motor is located more that 2 feet from the opening, but it does not mention a maximum depth from the opening for the motor. This is from the plumbing commentary, "The larger opening is required when the pump is located deeper in the enclosure because the service personnel will have to position more of their body in the opening to reach and remove the pump."

504.6 - Question: Can the relief valve of a water heater be piped up and over to a waste receptor?

Answer: No, Section 504.6 NCPC requires the discharge piping of the relief valve to flow by gravity.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr- Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

504.6 - Question: Can PEX be used for the T&P discharge piping from a water heater?

Answer: Yes, Section 504.6 NCPD states the materials for the piping must be listed in Table 605.4 "Water Distribution". PEX is a listed material in the table.

604.4 - Question: If I have a small restaurant with less than 50 people, am I still required to provide metering faucets?

Answer: Yes, we have discussed this issue with NCDOL. In this case the occupancy would be "B" but the use is still "A". The plumbing code requirements are based on the use of the space.

606.2 - Question: If you have 2 water heaters in series, are you required to have a shutoff on each water heater?

Answer: If the water heaters are installed in series, a shutoff would only be required for the first water heater. When installed in series one WH feeds the other, it doubles the capacity and they operate as one unit. If installed in parallel a shutoff would need to be installed on each water heater. A parallel setup does double the capacity, but the water heaters still operate independent of each other.

607.1 - Question: I have a prefab guard shack. Comes with a toilet, lav, and point of use water heater. Water heater electrical load was overlooked. I'm being asked if by code the water heater is required.

Answer: Section 607.1 NCPD requires a source of hot water in dwelling units. Other occupancies, hot water may be supplied. In this case, potable water would need to be supplied to the lavatory, but hot water is not required.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

607.3 - Question: Is an expansion device required for a tankless water heater?

Answer: An expansion device (tank, valve, etc.) shall be installed in a residential or commercial building when a storage-type water heater is installed in the water distribution system with a backflow prevention device installed in the water supply line. Also, an expansion device shall be installed on a water heater replacement when a backflow prevention device is installed in the water supply line. This requirement for an expansion device shall apply to a manufactured home. An expansion device is not required for a tankless water heater.

See attached NCDOT Interpretation

702.4 - Question: Can PVC slip expansion joints be used in the drainage system?

Answer: Table 702.4 NCPC gives the required standards for fittings. We have not been able to find a slip expansion joint that conforms to the required standards from T702.4.

704.2 - Question: Can a 4x3 closet bend be used to accept other waste other than from the water closet and still not be considered a reduction in the direction of flow?

Answer: No, a 4x3 closet bend is not consider a reduction in the direction of flow for water closet connections only. It is common practice to drop down with a 4 inch from the closet flange and reduce to 3 inch with a closet bend under the water closet. This considered the water closet connection to the drainage system, a fixture drain. When other fixtures are added, then it would be considered a fixture branch and would not be allowed.

705.2.1 - Question: Can Fernco couplings be used underground?

Answer: Yes, if they conform to the ASTM C 1173 standard, they are approved for underground use. Section 705.2.1 NCPC only allows them for underground use,



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr- Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

unless otherwise approved. The pipe needs to be bedded properly and most of the time the Fernco installation instructions will require a head test on the connection.

708.4 - Question: Are cleanouts in a drive way, required to be rated for traffic?

Answer: Yes, the code requires the box, access cover, or cleanout to be rated when subjected to vehicular traffic. We would consider the entire driveway, except within 40 inches of a wall or planter, to be subject to vehicular traffic.

710.1 - Question: Can a 15 inch building drain tie into a private manhole and then have a 8 inch sewer from the private manhole to the county tap?

Answer: Unless this is a NCDENR project, the sewer needs to be sized per Table 710.1(1) NCPC.

712.3.4.1 - Question: Does the required sump alarm, audio and visual, need to be in the building or can it be outside, but still observable to the building occupants?

Answer: The alarm can be outside, but needs to be observable to the building occupants. Any where around the perimeter of the building should be acceptable. The intent is the occupants can see and hear it as they enter or exit the building. If the sump is remote from the building and not observable, that could be an issue.

802.1.3 - Question: Can a drinking fountain be considered clear water waste and therefore would be legal to waste indirectly to a floor sink?

Answer: Yes, Section 802.1.3 allows drinking fountains to be connected directly or indirectly.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr- Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

802.1.3 Potable clear-water waste. Where devices and equipment, such as sterilizers and relief valves, discharge potable water to the building drainage system, the discharge shall be through an indirect waste pipe by means of an air gap. Drinking fountains may be connected directly or indirectly.

802.3 - Question: Where can the strainer be installed on a floor sink? Flush with floor or in the bottom of the sink.

Answer: Section 802.3 requires a removable strainer or basket covering the waste outlet of the waste receptor. The waste outlet would imply the bottom of the floor sink. The commentary also provides an illustration that provides clarification the strainer is required at the bottom covering the waste outlet.

802.3.2 - Question: Can a hub drain be flush with the floor?

Answer: No, Section 802.3.2 states the hub drain must be at least 1 inch above the floor. A hub drain is to receive discharge from specific appliances and not what could be washed into them from the floor; that is why a strainer is not required.

802.3.2 Open hub waste receptors. Waste receptors shall be permitted in the form of a hub or pipe extending not less than 1 inch (25.4 mm) above a water-impervious floor and are not required to have a strainer.

802.4 - Question: Can a laundry tray drain be tied into the stand pipe for the washing machine?

Answer: Yes, Section 802.4 specifically allows this connection.

802.4 Standpipes. Standpipes shall be 2 inches (51 mm) in diameter and not less than 18 inches (762 mm) or more than 48 inches (1219 mm) in height as measured from the crown weir. The standpipe shall extend 34 inches (864 mm) minimum above the base of the clothes washer unless recommended otherwise by the manufacturer. The connection of a laundry tray waste line may be made into a standpipe for the automatic clothes-washer drain. The outlet of the laundry



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

tray shall be a maximum horizontal distance of 30 inches (762 mm) from the standpipe trap.

803.1 - Question: Is there an issue for an instant hot to drain into a sink if the water temperature is 180 degrees or above?

Answer: It would not be an issue if the unit is listed, which code will require. All the listed units researched had a couple of things in common. The volume of water was very low, this is how they can heat the water up to 210 degrees very fast. They also could not be turned on and left on, the lever would turn the unit off when the person activating it removed their hand.

901 - Question: What is the minimum size dry vent allowed under slab? 2 inch?

Answer: If it is a dry vent, we can find no minimum size other than half of the drain served. There are provisions in Chap 7 that requires a minimum 2 inch drain underground.

904.1 - Question: On a partial occupied roof, does all the plumbing vents need be 7 foot?

Answer: No, we would consider the distance the same as property lines. If is more than 10 feet away, then extending to 7 foot would not be required. The occupied area needs to be designated and have a visible demarcation (i.e., paving ends and rest is membrane, planters or half wall).

904.1 Roof extension. All open vent pipes that extend through a roof shall be terminated at least 6 inches (152 mm) above the roof, except that where a roof is used by the public or tenants for any purpose, the vent extensions shall be run at least 7 feet (2134 mm) above the roof.

909.1 - Question: Can a clothes washer drain be used as a wet vent?



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Answer: No, Section 909.1 NCPC prohibits using a clothes washer as a wet vent. The sudden surge of water down the drain will fill the pipe and cut off the vent portion in the top half of the pipe.

911.1 - Question: If I use a circuit vent, does an emergency floor drain count as one of the 8 fixtures? The codes says it counts as zero dfu.

Answer: Section 911.1 states, "A maximum of eight fixtures connected to a horizontal branch shall be permitted to be circuit vented." The code section does not mention dfu, only connected fixtures. The emergency floor drain would count as one of the eight allowed fixtures.

911.1 Circuit vent permitted. A maximum of eight fixtures connected to a horizontal branch drain shall be permitted to be circuit vented. Each fixture drain shall connect horizontally to the horizontal branch being circuit vented. The horizontal branch drain shall be classified as a vent from the most downstream fixture drain connection to the most upstream fixture drain connection to the horizontal branch.

911.1 - Question: Can I break my circuit vent into two sections. Have 4 fixtures on one circuit vent and four on another circuit vent, or does all 8 fixtures need to be on one circuit vent?

Answer: Section 911.1 states, "A maximum of eight fixtures." Any number of fixtures may be connected to the circuit vent up to the 8 fixtures allowed.

916.1 - Question: I have 2 floor drains, individually vented, that were 3 inch on the plans, but the owner decided they wanted 4 inch. We were given the ok from the inspector, but then we were turned down because of the 1.5 inch vents. The inspector is stating since the floor drains were changed to 4 inch, the vents need to be a minimum of 2 inch. Is this correct? The 1.5 inch vents were approved on the plans.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Answer: Section 916.1 NCPC requires stack vents and vent stacks to be sized in accordance with Table 916.1, but in no case be less than one-half of the drain served. Since the floor drains were increased in size, the vents should have been increased as well.

916.1 Size of stack vents and vent stacks. The minimum required diameter of stack vents and vent stacks shall be determined from the developed length and the total of drainage fixture units connected thereto in accordance with Table 916.1, but in no case shall the diameter be less than one-half the diameter of the drain served or less than 1 1/4 inches (32 mm).

1002 - Question: We just had a home inspection done and the inspector said that the kitchen sink was plumbed with an S-trap. I thought an S-trap went down through the floor. This drain goes into the wall, but does elbow down then elbow to the wall. Is this a S-trap?

Answer: After a P trap, there needs to be 2 pipe ID or more of horizontal, and then a vent. This may not look like the traditional S-trap, but it would function the same.

Policy - Question: How many bathrooms in a house must be complete to get the plumbing final?

Answer: All bathrooms permitted must be complete to get the plumbing final. If the permit was issued for 3 bathrooms, then all 3 must be complete to pass the plumbing final. Code only requires 1 bathroom, the permit can be amended to take the other 2 bathrooms out and have them permitted at a later time.

Policy - Question: What does the inspectors look at on a Sovent system? Or, does the engineer sign off on everything?

Answer: Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement has a SOP on single stack plumbing systems.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

DESIGN and PLAN REVIEW CRITERIA: The single-stack drainage system is performance driven, alternative engineered design plumbing system. This system is not a prescriptive method recognized in the NCPC; therefore, the system must be designed by a North Carolina Licensed Design Professional in accordance with accepted engineering practices and the NCPC section 105.4. The alternative plumbing system design will be included in and referenced from the Mecklenburg County approved plans. The design submitted for project plan review will include a riser diagram; design DFU loads for the risers involved; pipe sizes; pipe materials; riser and component locations within the building; pertinent UL wall & floor/ceiling rated penetration details. The Sovent handbook will provide any other needed information for the design and installation.

INSPECTION and TESTING PROCESS: The installation of the single stack vent system will be in accordance with the approved design, shop drawings and other referenced materials not be governed by the NCPC. In accordance NCPC section 105.4, the alternative engineered designed plumbing system elements that are not within the purview of Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement (MCCE) inspections will need to be designed, inspected, and approved by the design professional of record. This information should be forwarded to and received by the plumbing contractor of record; that information should then be attached to the permit for future recordkeeping purposes & project approval. Inspection items covered by MCCE will include piping support along with Drainage and Vent tests per the NCPC and a visual inspection of the piping installation for compliance with the Engineer of Record sealed shop drawings.

Policy - Question: How high above a plumbing vent should a solar panel be?

Answer: The vent must be at least 6 inches above the roof, Section 904.1 NCPC. The code does not address this situation. After consulting with NCDOT it was



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

determined the clearance needs to be equal to the diameter of the pipe, 2 inch diameter would be 2 inch clearance from the vent to the bottom of the panel.

Policy - Question: On a handicap shower, who is looking at the position of the shower valve?

Answer: The Building Inspector is charged with looking at ADA compliance.

Other - Question: I have an apartment that they deleted the sub-meters and used a nipple so they could come back later and install them. Will a permit be required when the sub-meters are installed?

Answer: Yes, this would be an alteration to the system. The inspection would include checking the materials and standards/lead content of the meter.

Other - Question: I have an apartment that shows sub-meters on the drawings but they want to install them later. How should this be handled?

Answer: If it is just the sub-meters that is being changed, we would need a letter from the engineer stating they are being deleted from the project. The letter needs to be uploaded to the permit, then the permit can be finalized.

Other - Question: Does the code have a required minimum water pressure?

Answer: Not directly, but the code does have fixture specific minimum pressures. Table 604.3 lists minimum design criteria for common fixtures. There are other instances in the code where specific fixture requirements are listed.

Other - Question: Is there a min or max clearance for a water closet tank from the wall behind the tank.



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

Answer: No, there is no standard distance a toilet tank should set out from the wall. There are standard rough in distances, the most common is 12" with a few at 10" and a few at 14", but the actually distance the tank will be from the wall will vary.

Other - Question: Does the main shut off on an upfit need to be accessible without the use of the ladder?

Answer: Only if the main shut off for the building is not readily accessible.

Other - Question: Is a separate demo permit required for a renovation?

Answer: Usually a separate demo permit is not required for a renovation, as the demo is part of the renovation and included in the renovation cost. A demo sheet should be provided in the plans and this should be looked at in the field to confirm construction is staying within the scope of work that was permitted. There are instances where the plans may still be in review and the contractor wants to get started. In this case the demo portion can be pulled out of the project and permitted separately. Another case would be where the owner wants to demo a space to make it more marketable and there is no tenant or renovation plans.

Other - Question: Can a 50 gallon residential electric water heater be used as a storage tank for 2 tankless gas water heaters (199,000 BTU each)? Would it be considered a boiler?

Answer: Unless the manufacturer of the tankless water heaters or the 50 gallon water heater prohibited it, we can find nothing in the code that would prohibit it. It would not be considered a boiler, as there would not be a single piece of



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

equipment 200,000 btu or greater. The tank would need to keep the T&P valve in place.

Other - Question: Is there a requirement in the NCPC for a floor drain in a transformer room?

Answer: There is no requirement in the plumbing code for a floor drain, but the NEC does have some requirements for drainage in vaults for certain size transformers.

Licensing Board - Question: Can a homeowner permit and do HVAC and plumbing work on their own home?

Answer: Response from Licensing board:

Yes, they can on the home that is not intended for rent or sale, so if they live there they can do the work themselves.

R307.1 Residential Code - Question: What is the correct clearance from the center of a lavatory to a side wall in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses?

Answer: Section 405.3.1 of the residential plumbing code states;
405.3.1 Water closets, urinals, lavatories and bidets. A water closet, urinal, lavatory or bidet shall not be set closer than 15 inches (381 mm) from its center to any side wall, partition, vanity or other obstruction, or closer than 30 inches (762 mm) center-to-center between adjacent fixtures.....

Exception: For one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, see the North Carolina Residential Code.

Because of the exception the minimum fixture installation clearance figure R307.1 should be used for lavatory installation. Figure R307.1 does not dictate a specific



NC Plumbing Code

1st Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Qtr. 2018 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd QTR 2018 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th QTR 2018 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

sidewall clearance to the center of the lavatory. This interpretation only applies to one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses.

Manufacture's Installation - Question: Can the flow restrictor of a grease interceptor be installed in the drain pipe, or does it need to be installed at the grease interceptor?

Answer: It would need to be installed per the manufacturer's installation instructions.

3006.6 NC Building Code - Question: Are hub drains allowed in elevator equipment rooms?

Answer: No, Section 3006.6 NCBC prohibits plumbing systems in elevator equipment rooms. The intent of this section doesn't allow plumbing pipes to pass through the equipment room. If the pipe fails and water/liquids could cause malfunctions with the elevator safety circuits.

3006.6 Plumbing systems. Plumbing systems shall not be located in elevator equipment rooms.