

Preface

[The following preface is reprinted from the model National Plumbing Code of Canada \(NPC\), on which the Book II \(Plumbing Systems\) of the British Columbia Building Code \(BCBC\) is substantially based. As such, this information also pertains to Book II \(Plumbing Systems\) of the BCBC. Code Users should also consult the preface to Book I \(General\) of the BCBC for more information.](#)

National Plumbing Code of Canada 2015

The National Plumbing Code (NPC) sets out technical provisions for the design and installation of new plumbing systems. It also applies to the extension, alteration, renewal and repair of existing plumbing systems.

The NPC establishes requirements to address the following four objectives, which are fully described in Division A of the Code:

- safety
- health
- protection of buildings and facilities from water and sewage damage
- environment

Code provisions do not necessarily address all the characteristics of buildings and facilities that might be considered to have a bearing on the Code's objectives. Through the extensive consensus process used to develop and maintain Codes Canada (see the section entitled Development of Codes Canada), the code-user community has decided which characteristics should be regulated through the NPC.

Because the NPC is a model code, its requirements can be considered as the minimum acceptable measures required to adequately achieve the above-listed objectives, as recommended by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes. They become minimum acceptable requirements once they are adopted and passed into law or regulation by an authority having jurisdiction: i.e., the requirements represent the minimum level of performance required to achieve the objectives that is acceptable to the adopting authority.

Plumbing code users are also involved in the development of the NPC and they help determine the content. The Code development process is described in the section entitled Development of Codes Canada.

The NPC is a model code which, when adopted or adapted by a province or territory, becomes a regulation. It is not a textbook on plumbing system design or installation. The design of a technically sound plumbing system depends upon many factors beyond simple compliance with plumbing regulations. Such factors include the availability of knowledgeable practitioners who have received appropriate education, training and experience and who have some degree of familiarity with the principles of good plumbing practice and experience using textbooks, reference manuals and technical guides.

The NPC does not list acceptable proprietary plumbing products. It establishes the criteria that plumbing materials, products and assemblies must meet. Some of these criteria are explicitly stated in the NPC while others are incorporated by reference to material or product standards published by standards development organizations. Only those portions of the standards related to the objectives of this Code are mandatory parts of the NPC.

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