

Scope: The International Plumbing Code (IPC) establishes minimum regulations for the design, installation, and maintenance of plumbing systems. For municipalities, the IPC promotes public health and sanitation by ensuring safe distribution of potable water and proper management of wastewater. Adoption of the IPC provides uniform guidance for design professionals, contractors, and inspectors, reducing ambiguity in enforcement and supporting consistent development practices.

Significant Changes (including changes made in the 2021 version and the 2024 version, noted in parentheses on which year the change took effect):

The intent of the content below is not intended to capture each change to the text of the code for all items related to restructuring or moving content, updates to definitions/clarifications, or minor provisions with insignificant impact. More context can be provided upon request for any of the changes that have occurred in each of the code editions.

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration

[No significant changes]

Chapter 2 Definitions

[No significant changes]

Chapter 3 General Regulations

- Where hot water piping for a manifold system is in a bundle with cold water piping, the hot water piping is required to be insulated but not necessarily individually insulated (2021).
- Provisions are added to deal with expansive soil conditions under buildings that can create significant support and alignment problems for buried piping (2024).
- Tracer wire should be buried with all plastic sewer piping for easy identification of the pipe location in the lot (2024).
- Vacuum testing for piping is now allowed (2024).

Chapter 4 Fixtures, Faucets and Fixture Fittings

- Clarification made for calculations for minimum fixtures (2021 & 2024).
- Overflow drains are not required for bathtubs (2024).
- Soap dispensers are now required for public sinks (2024).

Chapter 5 Water Heaters

[No significant changes]

Chapter 6 Water Supply and Distribution

- Multiple tenant buildings must have a main water shutoff valve for each tenant space (2021).
- Hospitals are now required to have two independent water service lines, both required to have a tracer wire installed if piping is non-metallic (2021).

Chapter 7 Sanitary Drainage

- Removable traps and removable fixtures with integral traps are acceptable as equivalent to cleanouts (2021).
- The code recognizes two methods for restoring building sewer and building drain piping (2021).

Chapter 8 Indirect/Special Waste

Chapter 9 Vents

- The prohibition of a food waste disposer discharging to a combination waste and vent system is removed (2021).

Chapter 10 Traps, Interceptors and Separators

- Waste from lavatories and hand sinks can be directed to floor drains, trench drains or floor sinks where such floor fixtures require a trap primer (2021).

Chapter 11 Storm Drainage

[No significant changes]

Chapter 12 Special Piping and Storage Systems

[No significant changes]

Chapter 13 Nonpotable Water Systems

[No significant changes]

Chapter 14 Subsurface Graywater Soil Absorption Systems

[No significant changes]

Chapter 15 Referenced Standards

- Nearly all referenced standards have had an updated edition since 2018.