



Plumbing not the job for the home handyman



with ANNE-MARIE ALGEFSKI

LEAKY tap or installing a new hot water system? You need a licensed plumber!

In Western Australia, any work involving supply of water, sanitation or drainage requires a licensed plumber. This is not the job for the home handyman.

If you don't use a licensed plumber, you run the risk of contaminating drinking water, leakage of wastewater or sewerage and even uncontrolled discharges into the environment.

By using a licensed plumber you can be assured the person who carries out the work is competent and the work will comply with relevant plumbing standards.

Licensed plumbers guarantee their work and remain responsible for that work for a period of six years. So, if the work does not comply with plumbing standards it must be rectified at no additional cost to you.

Western Australia's Plumbers Licensing Board issues two types of

licences – a Plumbing Contractors licence and a Tradesperson licence.

Both are qualified to do plumbing work, but only a licensed plumbing contractor is qualified to certify the work complies with the relevant plumbing standards. This means a licensed tradesperson must work under the general direction of a licensed contractor.

When negotiating the services of a plumber, always ask to see their licence card and check:

- The expiry date on the card to ensure it is current;
- The face of the card to ensure the type of work carried out is shown e.g. water supply, sanitary, drainage; and
- If the licence is for a tradesperson licence, ask for details of the licensed plumbing contractor who will certify the work. To minimise the risk of disputes, always ask for a written quotation for the total cost of the job.

Licensed plumbers issue compliance certificates when major plumbing work is done. These certificates

guarantee the work has been carried out in accordance with all the necessary regulatory requirements and the plumber has met all legal obligations.

Make sure the plumber gives you the blue Owner/Occupier's copy of the certificate within five days of completing the work.

For further information or advice on licensing matters, contact the board on 9282 0478 or visit the website at www.plumbers.wa.gov.au.

A free brochure, Having Plumbing Work Done, is available from the Department of Commerce – Consumer Protection, on the corner of Broadwood and Hunter Streets, West Kalgoorlie, or phone 1300 30 40 54.

If you have any topics you would like Anne-Marie to cover in her weekly column phone 9026 3250 or email anne-marie.algefski@commerce.wa.gov.au.

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