



Plumbers Licensing Board

Compliance and inspection – Your questions answered

Rectification Notices

Compliance officers have powers to issue rectification notices where plumbing work does not comply with the relevant regulations.

Where a rectification notice is issued the work will be required to comply with the directions on the notice within the time period specified.

All rectified work will be inspected and a re-inspection fee will be charged to the licensed plumber responsible.

Infringement notices

Infringement notices may be issued as a sanction instead of prosecution where it is believed that a person has committed a prescribed offence against the regulations, such as failing to submit certificates of compliance, failing to book drainage audits, or not displaying a licence number on all promotional or advertising material.

Penalties apply for each offence.

New installation fees

A new plumbing installation is plumbing work that involves the installation of water supply, sanitary or drainage plumbing in a new building or extension to an existing building.

The new installation fee is only applicable under the above circumstances and is payable at the time of submitting the notice of intention.

The new installation fee applies in both sewered and unsewered areas and reflects the number of new and additional fixtures* to be installed as part of the installation. The new installation fee payable is based on the following:

- Flat fee (up to nine fixtures) set at a standard rate.
- Additional fixtures are charged at a set rate per fixture, plus GST.

See website for details.

* A fixture is a receptacle designed for a specific purpose, the use or operation of which results in a discharge into the sanitary plumbing or drainage installation, including but not limited to such items as water closets, baths/spa baths, basins, showers, kitchen sinks, laundry tubs, urinals and bidets.

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This publication is available on request in other formats to assist people with special needs.



Working with the plumbing industry to
serve the Western Australian community

Introduction

The Plumbers Licensing Board (the Board) is responsible for licensing and regulating plumbing work across Western Australia.

The Board authorises plumbing contractors to undertake and certify all forms of plumbing work.

This brochure is designed to help plumbers understand their obligations under the current licensing regime.

Pressure reduction valve



Compliance checks for licensed plumbers

Every licensed plumber is subject to a random compliance check conducted by a Plumbers Licensing Board appointed compliance officer on an annual basis. Compliance checks have a two way focus, with the main aim being to help licensed plumbers comply with the plumbing standards and other regulatory requirements.

As part of a standard compliance check a compliance officer will:

- audit the notices of intention, certificates of compliance and multi-entry certificates;
- audit the mandatory register of tradespersons and apprentices employed or engaged to carry out plumbing work; and
- check the system in place for exercising general direction and control of tradespersons and apprentices.

Compliance checks also provide every licensed plumber and contractor with an opportunity to discuss any compliance related issues with a compliance officer.

Categories of plumbing work

For the purposes of self-certification, plumbing work is classified into one of two categories:

1. Major plumbing work

Work involving the installation, alteration, extension, disconnection, ventilation, repair or maintenance of water supply, sanitary and/or drainage plumbing, but excludes minor work. Major work will include but will not be limited to such work as property drainage installations, sewer conversions, installation of new or replacement hot water units, installation of backflow prevention devices, and installation of evaporative air conditioners.

2. Minor plumbing work

The alteration, repair or maintenance of existing water supply, sanitary and/or drainage plumbing systems, specifically:

- repair or maintenance of cold water supply plumbing;
- clearing of blocked drains;
- cold water valve replacement, maintenance or repair;
- hot water valve replacement, maintenance or repair;
- sanitary and waste fixture maintenance;
- repair and servicing of backflow prevention devices; and
- repair, replacement or alteration of drainage plumbing where 5 metres or less in length.

Notices of Intention/Certificates of Compliance and Multi-entry Certificates

All major plumbing work requires the submission of a notice of intention to the Board at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the work (except for emergency work) and the submission of a certificate of compliance within five working days of completing the work.

All minor work carried out is to be recorded on a multi-entry certificate which is to be submitted to the Board at the end of each calendar month.

Licensed plumbers are required to purchase notices of intention/certificates of compliance and multi-entry certificates from the Plumbers Licensing Board.

The charges which apply for these certificates can be found on our website at www.plumbers.wa.gov.au, under Publications/Licensed Plumbing Contractors Publications/Order Form.



Drainage plumbing audits

Approximately five per cent of all drainage plumbing work is randomly audited each year. Drainage plumbing audits are undertaken following completion of the work but prior to the work being back filled.

Licensed plumbers or their appropriately licensed representatives are required to:

- request a drainage audit the day prior to the day the drain will be ready for inspection;
- be on site for the audit; and
- make sure the excavation is open at the nominated inspection time and is under an appropriate pressure test.

Water supply and sanitary plumbing audits

As part of the Board's determination to monitor compliance with the prescribed plumbing standards, approximately five per cent of water supply and sanitary plumbing work is randomly audited each year by Plumbers Licensing Board Compliance Officers. Work to be audited is selected from various sources, including Shire and Water Corporation building applications, the notices of intention and certificates of compliance submitted to the Board, and also random or target areas of concern.