

You Should Know

The IPC states that the relief valve may discharge to the floor. It also states that it cannot discharge in a way that will not cause structural damage. So, terminating to a floor that is sloped to a floor drain is acceptable.

Question: Can a relief discharge terminate to a garage floor that is sloped toward the exterior at the garage door? The IPC does not speak to personal property damage, such as items that may be located on a garage floor. The code official must determine whether termination to a sloped garage floor is acceptable, provided that no structural damage will occur. ●

Relief Valve Discharge

The discharge line for the relief valve must be at least the diameter of the relief valve outlet and shall not be reduced in size downstream of the valve or have a check valve or any other type of valve that could prevent the release of the discharge. It cannot terminate with a threaded connection. Where the tubing utilizes insert-type fittings, the tubing must be increased one pipe size to meet the minimum diameter requirement. The termination can be to the exterior of the structure, to a waste receptor, to the water heater's drain pan or to the floor. However, where the relief line discharges outside of the room where the water heater is located, it must be provided with an air gap. All portions of the relief line are to drain by means of gravity (Figures 4-11 and 4-12).

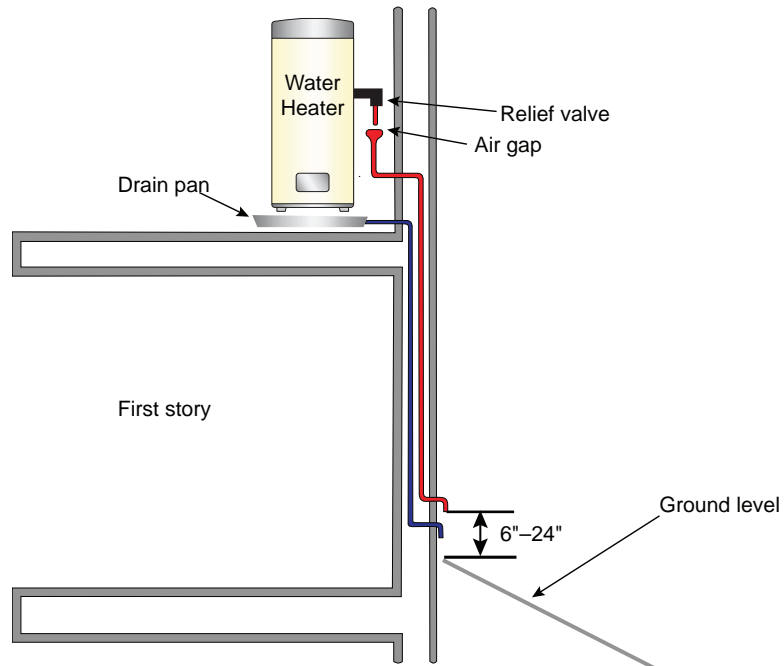


FIGURE 4-12 Relief valve and pan drain termination

The termination must be at a point where readily visible to the building occupants and shall serve only that one relief valve. The termination point must not be more than 6 inches above the floor or flood level rim of the receptor, and one must be careful to maintain the required air gap when discharging to a receptor. Air gap requirements will be discussed in Chapter 9. **[Ref. IPC 504.6 and IRC P2804.6]**