The 2021 International Plumbing Code®
Why It Should Be In Your Future

FACTS

- The International Code Council (ICC) updates its construction and public safety codes every three years through a governmental consensus process.
- The International Plumbing Code® (IPC®) is in use or adopted in 37 states, the District of Columbia, NYC, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Approximately 252 million people, or 75% of the U.S. population, live in areas that have adopted the IPC.
- The IPC is innovative, efficient, effective, and fully correlated with the other 14 International Codes® (I-Codes®). The IPC has over 44 code sections that reference sections of code in other members of the International Code Family and in total there are over 121 IPC cross-references among the suite of 15 I-Codes.

CORRELATION

- The IPC has 38 correlated sections with the International Building code® (IBC®); 26 in the International Mechanical Code® (IMC®); 9 in the International Fuel Gas Code® (IFGC®); 7 in the International Energy Conservation Code® (IECC®) and 8 in the International Fire Code® (IFC®); all of which avoids conflict and over lapping requirements. Correlated cross-references impact life safety issues related to:
  - Accessibility of buildings per the ICC A117.1 standard including accessible plumbing fixtures requirements contained within the 2021 IPC
  - allowable use of combustible materials
  - design and installation of roof drainage systems
  - minimum number of required plumbing fixtures
  - fire protection and life safety systems
  - means of egress
BENEFITS

• The IPC recognizes new materials, new technologies and engineered designs, providing multiple options and flexibility for the design of plumbing systems.

• Numerous piping materials are included for use under the IPC. These materials include both plastic and metallic piping, for not only drain, waste, and vent systems, but also for water distribution, water service piping and building sewers. Having a choice of materials provides greater flexibility to the design professionals and building owners as to which materials best fits their construction budget and can result in significant material cost savings.

• The IPC allows the use of air-admittance valves in lieu of typical vent piping installed through the roof of buildings. The use of air-admittance valves will reduce the number of penetrations through a roof assembly, lowering the potential for roof leaks, and eliminating interference with the installation of rooftop equipment.

• The IPC allows sidewall vent terminations in lieu of typical vent piping installed through the roofs of buildings. This also lowers the potential for roof leaks and eliminates interference with the installation of rooftop equipment.

• The IPC allows two bathroom groups on a single horizontal wet vent, providing greater design flexibility for the design professional.

• The IPC allows waterless urinals with no restrictions. The waterless urinal is not only a great water conservation tool but is also more sanitary because it is a non-touch plumbing fixture.

• The IPC enhances hot water efficiency through improved designs that significantly reduces the elapsed time for heated water to reach plumbing fixtures.

• The IPC does not require venting of indirect waste lines to atmosphere as required by other model codes. Indirect waste lines incorporate an air gap or air break that ensures adequate air to drain the system.

• The IPC does not require protection of water closet traps from self-siphoning. The automatic water fill serving the water closet takes care of any concerns regarding loss of the trap seal.

• The IPC allows the use of combination waste and vent systems for floor drains, sinks, lavatories, and drinking fountains providing greater design flexibility for the design professional.

• The IPC allows the use of siphonic roof drainage technology providing additional design options and flexibility. Siphonic roof drain designs can reduce required pipe sizes, reduce the amount of below-grade drainage and reduce underground trenching. Siphonic roof drainage systems incorporate level horizontal roof drainage piping, without grade, simplifying installation and coordination with other trades.

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