



**HAMILTON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH**

PREVENT. PROMOTE. PROTECT.

HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT PLUMBING REGULATION 3-2025

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE, INSTALLATION
AND INSPECTION OF PLUMBING AND MEDICAL GAS SYSTEMS
WITHIN THE HAMILTON COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

**Hamilton County General Health District
250 William Howard Taft Road, 2nd Floor
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219**

Effective July 1, 2025

INTENT: The purpose of these Regulations is to protect public health, safety and the environment through preventative measures and timely correction of all public health issues related to plumbing and medical gas systems.

SCOPE: These Regulations establish definitions; set minimum standards for installation, maintenance, testing and replacement of plumbing and medical gas systems; and provide enforcement for violations of these Regulations.

Section 3709.21 of the Ohio Revised Code gives the Board of Health of a general health district the authority to adopt regulations for the public health, the prevention or restriction of disease, and the prevention, abatement or suppression of nuisances.

SECTION 01: DEFINITIONS

The definitions section of the Ohio Plumbing Code shall be used when available. The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of these regulations:

- A. "Board of Health" means the board of health of a city, general health district, combined health district or the authority having the duties of a board of health under section 3709.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. "Force main" is that part of the building sewer which is pumped by the sewage ejector and connects to the public sewer system, private sewer system or private sewage treatment system.
- C. "Hamilton County General Health District" doing business as Hamilton County Public Health or "HCPH" is a general health district as created by and under authority of Chapter 3709 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- D. "Health Commissioner" means the individual occupying the office created by section 3709.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, or the health commissioner's authorized representative.
- E. "Lower Rough Inspection" is an inspection of all plumbing below the foundation or slab and will be covered by the ground or slab.
- F. "Medical Gas Inspector" is an inspector who has a current American Society of Sanitary Engineers (A.S.S.E.) 6020 medical gas inspector certification.
- G. "Medical Gas" is an assembly of equipment and piping for the distribution of medical gases including but not limited to oxygen, nitrous oxide, compressed air, carbon dioxide, and helium.
- H. "Medical Gas Permit Holder" is a contractor who is responsible for obtaining the permit for medical gas.
- I. "Medical Gas Partial Inspection" is any underground, rough or final inspection

that involves a portion of the complete requested inspection of the medical gas system.

- J. "Owner" is any person who, alone or jointly or severally with others:
 - a. has legal title to any real property, with or without accompanying actual possession thereof; or
 - b. has charge, care or control of any real property, as owner, authorized agent, representative of the owner, executor, executrix, administrator, trustee, or guardian of the estate of the owner.
- K. "Plumbing Fixture" means, as defined by the Ohio Plumbing Code, a receptacle or device that is connected to a water supply system or discharges to a drainage system or both. Such receptacles or devices require a supply of water; or discharge liquid waste or liquid-borne solid waste; or require a supply of water and discharge waste to a drainage system. For purposes of this definition, air admittance valves, dishwashers, garbage disposals, water heaters, floor drains, and hub drains shall be classified as fixtures.
- L. "Plumbing Inspector" means any employee who is a certified Plumbing Inspector by the Ohio Department of Commerce Board of Building Standards and is assigned to the enforcement of section 3781 and 3791 of the Revised Code and section 4101:3 of the Administrative Code. This includes employees enforcing ordinances, resolutions, or regulations regulating plumbing or prescribing the character thereof in municipal corporation and other political subdivisions.
- M. "Private sewer" means a sewer privately owned and not directly controlled by public authority.
- N. "Property lines" are the borders of a piece of real estate to which a person has legal title.
- O. "Specialty Contractor" is contractor restricted to installing only outside water service mains and outside sanitary sewer piping.
- P. "Upper rough inspection" is an inspection of all plumbing usually above ground and concrete slab that will be concealed behind walls, ceilings and floors.
- Q. "Water course" is a natural or made channel through which water flows; such as a stream, river, or brook, and as defined by the Hamilton County soil survey as being perennial

SECTION 02: REGISTRATION & BOND

- A. Registration and bonding is required to install, repair or modify a plumbing or medical gas system in HCPH's jurisdiction. You are required to be registered and bonded with

HCPH. Plumbing systems are inclusive of public building or places as used in Section 3781.06 of the Ohio Revised Code and in newly constructed or remodel in a single, two or three family dwelling. Plumbing systems shall be installed, maintained, tested and inspected in accordance with this regulation and applicable provisions of the current Ohio Plumbing Code, as may be subsequently amended, which is hereby incorporated by reference into this regulation and made a part of this regulation.

- B. Registration fees may be submitted for a one (1) or three (3)-year period and shall expire on December 31 of the year for which the registration was completed for one (1)-year registrations and on December 31 of the third year for which the registration was completed for three (3)-year registrations.
- C. Each person, firm or corporation installing plumbing or medical gas systems within HCPH's jurisdiction shall file a surety bond in the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) and said surety bond must be approved by the Hamilton County Board of Health. To qualify as approved bond, the surety companies executing bonds must appear on the U.S. Department of the Treasury's most current Bond List (Circular 570 as amended) and be authorized to transact business in the State of Ohio. Further, the surety company must have an A.M. Best Rating of A- or better. The surety bond shall be conditioned that the installer or owner and that said installer or owner making such installations will conform to all rules and regulations and orders of the Hamilton County Board of Health and State of Ohio.
- D. All contractors obtaining a commercial or residential plumbing permit must show proof of their Ohio Plumbing Contractor's License issued by the Ohio Construction Industry Licensing Board except those obtaining a homeowner's permit. Contractors registered as a specialty contractor are permitted to install water and sewer lines on the exterior of a structure without an Ohio Plumbing Contractor's License.
- E. To obtain a homeowner's permit you must reside within HCPH's jurisdiction and meet the following requirements:
 - a. Be the owner and live in the single-family residence where the work will be completed;
 - b. Continue to live in the single-family residence for one year after the work is completed;
 - c. Complete the work without the paid assistance of others. Any other person completing work on this project is required to be bonded and registered with HCPH;
 - d. Any person, firm, or corporation working for, with or under the direction of this homeowner must be registered and bonded. In addition, they are required to meet any additional requirements of the local water purveyor and or other jurisdiction in which work is occurring; and

- e. Failure to meet the requirements of the homeowner's permit shall result in the permit being voided.
- F. Each person, firm, or corporation obtaining a medical gas permit must be registered by HCPH as a medical gas permit holder.
 - a. A bond from HCPH to obtain a medical gas permit or registration is not required.

SECTION 03: PERMITS AND APPLICATIONS

- A. Each person, firm, or corporation engaged in the installation of plumbing and/or plumbing and medical gas systems, shall apply for and receive a permit from HCPH. The permit shall be obtained prior to commencing the installation of the plumbing or medical gas system except in the case of an emergency repair or replacement.
 - a. Plumbing system emergencies shall include the replacement of a water heater, water line, or sanitary sewage piping. Work may commence prior to obtaining a permit.
 - b. Medical gas system emergencies shall include cases in which a medical gas repair is required to maintain service or for safety of an occupied dwelling. Work may commence prior to obtaining a permit.
 - c. In the case of an emergency, a plumbing or medical gas permit application shall be submitted within two (2) business days of the commencement of work.
 - d. When the emergency repair or replacement installation requires that work areas be covered, the contractor or homeowner shall file for an emergency inspection before covering any portion of the work area.
- B. All connections to potable water shall be protected, in accordance with the Ohio Plumbing Code and as required by the local water purveyor and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), shall be protected by an approved backflow device when servicing a non-potable source.
 - a. Lawn irrigation or lawn sprinkler systems shall be protected by a pressure type vacuum breaker or a reduced pressure principle backflow device.
 - b. Backflow prevention and cross-connection methods shall be in accordance with the Backflow Prevention & Cross-Connection Control Manual from the Ohio Department of Commerce.
- C. Plumbing permits are required for the following installations and replacements of plumbing systems:
 - a. All plumbing fixtures, interior storm conductors or leaders, water heaters, floor drains, sump pumps, neutralization tanks, garbage disposals, dishwashers and other water supplied devices or system of drainage. Plumbing permits are required to replace any of the fore named or to relocate any soil waste, vent, leader line or clear water sump pump.

- b. Connection to an existing building to a sanitary sewer system and/or abandonment of a septic tank.
 - c. Connection to the public water supply and abandonment of a private water system.
 - d. All plumbing installations or modifications on a manufactured home or house trailer.
 - e. Sanitary sewer work located on private property that is not subjected to the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3718, Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 3701-29, applicable Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati regulations, and/or applicable Hamilton County Board of Health resolutions or regulations.
 - f. A permit is required for any connection or modification to the potable water distribution system or water service pipe beyond the end point that is within the authority of the local water purveyor including the containment backflow preventer assembly
- D. The applicant for a plumbing permit shall complete forms supplied by HCPH indicating the design of the proposed installation or alteration and furnish such information as indicated on the application along with a isometric drawing of all waste, storm, vent and water lines on the inside of the application, application of building permit, or sewer permits, or their application numbers, and any other pertinent information requested.
- E. Plumbing permit applications will not be processed until required building permits have been obtained and a building permit number has been issued.
- F. On a new building, no upper rough inspection will be performed until a sanitary sewer or sewage treatment system permit has been issued and approved, unless approved by the Health Commissioner or designee.
- G. A permit shall be issued when plans, specifications, and isometric drawings showing the proposed work in necessary detail have been submitted to HCPH and a plumbing inspector reviews and approves the plans.
- a. A plumbing permit is valid for the period of eighteen (18) months from the purchase date or from the last approved inspection conducted, whichever is greater.
 - i. A permit may be extended by the Health Commissioner or his/her designee up to an additional six (6) months and will be charged a fee in accordance with the plumbing fee schedule adopted by the Hamilton County Board of Health.
 - b. The transfer of a plumbing permit shall conform to the following procedures:
 - i. Only the property owner may transfer a plumbing permit.

- ii. The property owner shall complete the permit transfer form releasing the original contractor of all responsibility for the plumbing permit.
 - iii. The owner, if transferring the permit from a contractor to a homeowner's permit or a new bonded and registered contractor, accepts all future responsibility of all plumbing performed prior to and after transfer of permit.
 - c. An expedited plan review is given priority over all non-emergency plumbing permits and shall be reviewed within two (2) business days. For purposes of timing, the review shall begin once all required paperwork and fees have been submitted.
- H. If a permit is denied, the applicant may submit revised plans, specifications, and isometric drawings without payment of additional fees.
- I. The following exceptions do not require a plumbing permit:
 - a. The cleaning out of drainage lines where it is not necessary to fracture piping to gain access.
 - b. The replacement of washers, faucets and valves, repairs to existing fixtures and parts thereof, and the repairing of leaks in waste, vent, rain leader or water supply line, which do not require changes in the piping to or from the plumbing fixture.
 - c. Installation or replacement of mechanical piping for manufacturing purposes and shall include but is not limited to:
 - i. the extension of water supply line from an existing opening left in supply line to equipment used in process and manufacturing;
 - ii. condensers for cooling equipment excluding drinking water;
 - iii. cooling water for air compressors and turbines;
 - iv. make up water for steam and hot water heating equipment and hydraulic testing equipment; and
 - v. all the above mechanical piping shall be protected against backflow with the appropriate backflow device and permitted and tested in accordance with this regulation.
 - d. Any attachments, valves, water meters, meter settings, backflow devices beyond the end point that is within the authority of the local water purveyor including the containment backflow preventer assembly.

SECTION 04: FEES

- A. All fees for applications, tests, and inspections shall be authorized by the Board of Health.

SECTION 05: MEDICAL GAS SYSTEMS

- A. A medical gas permit is required when installing any medical gas piping systems including new construction, remodel of any building, residential, or commercial.

The design, installation, and testing of medical gas and vacuum piping systems within the scope of the national fire protection association standard, section 1-1 of the “NFPA 99C, Gas and Vacuum Systems,” is governed by the national fire protection association standard.

Installers, inspectors, verifiers, construction contracting maintenance personnel, and instructors for the design, installation, and testing of medical gas and vacuum piping systems shall obtain certification by the American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) in accordance with the ASSE series 6000 requirements.

Only brazers who have been qualified under the requirements of ASSE 6010 and certified with the Ohio Department of Commerce shall be permitted to braze joints in medical gas and vacuum pipeline systems (ASSE Series 600/10-4.9.2).

- B. HCPH plumbing division will permit and inspect medical gas systems per the Ohio Plumbing Code. No part of any medical gas system shall be covered until it has been inspected by a medical gas inspector, tested and approved.
 - a. A medical gas permit is valid for the period of eighteen (18) months from the purchase date or from the last approved inspection conducted, whichever is greater.
 - b. The transfer of a medical gas permit from a registered contractor to a new contractor shall conform to the following procedures:
 - i. Completion of a permit transfer form from the owner of the permit releasing the former contractor of all responsibility and requesting transfer to the new contractor. The new applicant accepts transfer of existing permit and assumes responsibility of all medical gas piping performed prior to and after transfer of permit.

- C. If a registered or bonded contractor has outstanding plumbing or medical gas fees, no new plumbing or medical gas permits shall be issued until balance is paid in full.

Medical gas permits with a cost of \$2,000 or less shall not exceed four (4) inspections. Should additional inspections be required, the standard reinspection fee shall apply for each additional inspection.

SECTION 06: INSPECTIONS

- A. All inspections shall be performed by a plumbing inspector in accordance with the current Ohio Plumbing Code and the rules and regulations of the Hamilton County Board of Health.
- B. Water service lines for fire protection shall be the jurisdiction of the building department or other governing authority, beyond the end point that is within authority of the local water purveyor including the containment backflow preventer assembly.
- C. The permit holder is responsible for scheduling inspections of all work completed. Any failed scheduled inspection that requires a reinspection shall be charged a reinspection fee. All reinspection fees shall be paid in full prior to a reinspection being conducted.
- D. All residential and commercial, new and remodel plumbing permits shall include a lower rough, upper rough, and a final inspection. Should additional inspections be required due to failure of the lower rough, upper rough, and/or final inspection, the standard reinspection fee shall apply for each additional inspection.
- E. All fixture replacement permits, including water heaters, shall include one (1) inspection. Should additional inspections be required, the standard reinspection fee shall apply for each additional inspection.
- F. All water and sewer line permits shall include one inspection in accordance with criteria as specified by the plumbing fee schedule adopted by the Hamilton County Board of Health. A sewer connection inspection shall include the observation of the abandoned household sewage treatment system and the connection to the public sanitary sewer. Should additional inspections be required, the standard reinspection fee shall apply for each additional inspection.
- G. When a facility has both a medical gas and plumbing permit for the same project, a final plumbing inspection will not be conducted until the medical gas system has passed its final gas inspection.

The fee for retaining a plumbing inspector onsite to offer inspections as needed or for emergency inspections outside of normal business (as specified on the HCPH website), shall be as specified by the plumbing fee schedule adopted by the Hamilton County Board of Health. All time shall be billed in fifteen-minute intervals and will include inspector drive time. This includes all residential, commercial, and medical gas inspections.

SECTION 07: SEWER, WATER SUPPLY, AND CLEAR WATER SUMP PUMP CONSTRUCTION WITHIN PROPERTY LINES

- A. Building sewers shall be installed at proper elevations to accept all gravity flow of the building drain without the use of pumps or lift stations where the public or private sewer system is of proper elevation. Storm and/or ground water, including footer and foundation drains shall be excluded from sanitary sewer and sewage treatment systems.

Such sanitary sewers shall be installed according to the current rules and regulations of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. The fee for such inspections shall be in accordance with the fixture fee schedule, when issued by the Hamilton County Board of Health.

- B. All sewer and/or water line work, under the jurisdiction of HCPH shall be inspected, tested, and approved by HCPH prior to back filling. Pipe fill shall be installed as per the Ohio Plumbing Code. The water service extension from the meter or water services to or from a building shall be installed at a minimum depth of thirty-six (36) inches of earth cover. Water service lines shall not be less than three-fourths (3/4) inch pipe size. Material shall be noncorrosive and shall be of approved type in accordance with the Ohio Plumbing Code.
- C. Sewer and water lines that are regulated by HCPH that pass under creeks, streams and similar water courses shall be sleeved a minimum of ten (10) feet past either bank. Sleeves shall be installed without sharp angles or bends, shall be sealed on both ends and concrete placed on top of bedding in accordance with good engineering practices. In some cases, concrete encasement or ductile iron pipe material may be necessary for sewers.
- D. All pressure forced mains for sanitary sewage are under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati. When the sanitary sewage ejector pit is located outside, HCPH plumbing division will permit and inspect all piping up to and including the sanitary sewage ejector. Any piping installed after the sewage ejector pit will be permitted and inspected by the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati.
- E. Clear water sumps installed prior to 2019 receiving the discharge from footing tile or perimeter tile be discharged to an evident water course located on individual lots or to roadway ditches or storm sewers where possible. Under no circumstance may the footing tile or perimeter water be discharged to a paved or unpaved street, road, alley, parking lot, sidewalk, building sewer or sanitary main line. Where the above-mentioned locations are not available, owners shall dissipate water from sump pumps on their own property. All discharge points shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from any property line.

SECTION 08: PENALTIES

- A. Any person, firm, corporation, plumber or installer who violates any provision of this regulation shall be in violation of Section 3709.21 and subject to the penalties provided by Section 3709.99 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- B. Late fees for plumbing and medical gas installations initiated without permits will apply in accordance with the plumbing fee schedule adopted by the Hamilton County Board of Health. The payment of the penalty shall not relieve the contractor or homeowner from the responsibility for full compliance of the Hamilton County Public Health Plumbing Rules and Regulations.

SECTION 09: EFFECT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY

- A. Should any part of this regulation be declared unconstitutional for any reason; the remainder of this regulation shall not be affected thereby.