

Plumbing Inspection Policy Information
Amended September 1, 2021

The current version of the Arkansas State Plumbing Code will be followed. Washington Water Authority plumbing inspectors may require additional requirements as necessary.

1. Licensed master plumbers will be required to obtain and pay for plumbing permits at the Washington Water Authority office before any work is to begin. Owners, contractors, etc. will not be allowed to obtain permits for their plumbers. Plumbers will be required to have their plumbing license and driver's license, for WWA personnel to make a copy of each time they obtain permits. A permit will not be issued without a plumber's license and driver's license submitted at this office. Plumbers may obtain permits electronically via pdf signed documents by calling the office of WWA and speaking with a customer service representative.
2. All plumbing, whether new construction or remodel, will be required to obtain a plumbing permit from the WWA. This shall include replacement of service lines.
3. All new plumbing will be required to submit a copy of an approved septic system design, unless the plumbing will be connecting to a public sewer system, before a plumbing permit may be obtained. This shall include any new additions of bedrooms to existing houses. WWA shall have final determination if a sewage approval permit may or may not be necessary in each occurrence, based on requirements of the Arkansas Department of Health.
4. All new residential structures will require a set of plans (11x17 in size) submitted to WWA at the time of applying for a plumbing permit for each residential address. Plans shall include a floor plan showing location of all plumbing fixtures planned for the structure. Plans should be emailed to WWA at customerservice@washingtonwater.org and shall include the name of the property owner and address in the subject line or body of the email so we can accurately track plans for each residential site. **NO OUTDOOR KITCHENS CAN BE INSTALLED UNLESS PRE-APPROVED BY WWA BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS.**
5. All sites will have a 911 address posted for all inspections. Temporary signage will be allowed during Yardline, Underslab and Topout Inspections. Final inspections will require a permanent address to be posted, either on the structure, a mailbox with address, or a 911 sign posted.
6. Any place of residence or business connecting to the public water supply system, now or at any time in the future, must have a plumbing permit and be inspected by licensed inspectors of the WWA. If a new residence or business in connecting to a well, but at some time in the future may connect to the public water system, it is required to be inspected by the WWA. It is the plumber's responsibility to insure that each facility is inspected.
7. Plumbing fees for each residential inspection is \$50 per inspection (underslab or crawlspace, rough-in, yard line, temporary hydrant, final, or any other inspection). RPZ's required an \$100 inspection fee. A plumbing inspection that fails and has to be reinspected will require an additional \$50 re-inspection fee to be paid at the WWA office before a re-inspection can be scheduled. Master plumbers or journeymen plumbers working for the master plumber are the only people that can pay for re-inspections. Office employees, owners, etc. may not pay for re-inspection fees.

8. It is the plumber's responsibility to notify the WWA of a request for an inspection. The WWA office must be notified at least the day before the requested day of an inspection. The WWA cannot give a specific time that the inspector will be on-site, only during normal working hours. WWA **cannot and will not** guarantee what time it will be inspected the following day. WWA inspectors will leave a pass(green) or fail(red) tag on site after the inspection has been performed. If an inspection is not ready on the requested day for whatever reason, it is the plumber's responsibility to call the offices of Washington Water Authority by 8:15 a.m. to cancel the inspection. If you fail to do so and the inspector makes the trip to your site, the inspection fails and a re-inspection fee will have to be paid in the office before another inspection will be setup.
9. All new commercial, industrial, institutional, or public building shall have plumbing plans submitted to the WWA Office, for approval before any building construction begins. The plumber or contractor is responsible for submitting these plans to WWA and paying a review fee of 1% of plumbing construction costs with a minimum of \$50 and a maximum of \$500. Commercial plumbing permit fees are based on number of fixtures and trips and shall be calculated based on plus a trip charge for each yardline, underslab, rough-in, final, temp, gas, RPZ or other site visits. Commercial permit fees will be calculated at the end of each commercial plumbing review.
10. All commercial businesses, apartment buildings, agricultural (poultry) meters, sprinkler system meters, etc. will be required to have a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) valve installed by a licensed plumber. The RPZ shall be a minimum of 1" in size and shall have Brass or Copper risers. PVC risers will not be accepted. A shut-off valve is required for all RPZ's must be installed before it and shall be separate from the yardline shutoff valve. This will also include an additional inspection and inspection fee.
11. Section 107.1.2.4 of the Arkansas State Plumbing Code requires plumbers to install a sign giving the company name, the name and state license number of the supervising master plumber, and phone number. The sign shall be made of weatherproof material. The sign shall be professionally made, not handwritten. The sign shall be a minimum size of 18" x 24" and shall have minimum 2" letters. The sign must be left posted at the job site throughout the duration of the construction project. **A sign may not be removed from a site until the final inspection has been completed.**
12. **Underslab Inspections** - Water mains in the underslab and rough-in inspection phases shall be tied together and tested with air at a minimum of 75 psi. The plumber shall have a minimum size of 3" pressure gauge with a maximum of 100 psi and a maximum of 2 psi incremental scale. Should the inspector request another gauge, the plumber shall change the gauge upon request. Sewer lines shall be water or air tested during the underslab inspection phase. If water is used, it must have a 10 foot standing column of water on the drain system. If air is used, you must have at least 5 psi on a minimum size of 3" pressure gauge with a maximum of 30 psi and a maximum increment of 1 psi. This inspection **will be** performed before concrete is placed. Any covering of plumbing with concrete before the inspection is performed will result in the removal of the concrete covering the plumbing system.
13. **Top Out or Rough-In Inspections** - Water mains shall be tied together and air tested as described in the underslab inspection described above. The sewer drain system shall be tested as required by the Arkansas State Plumbing Code. This inspection **must** be performed before any insulation, sheetrock, or other covering material is installed over the plumbing system. If the

plumbing system is covered before inspection, you will be required to remove all covering to get the inspection performed. This may include the payment of reinspection fees.

14. **Crawlspace Inspections** - Crawlspace inspections will be performed at the same time as the Rough-In inspections with all plumbing codes followed. Crawlspace inspections will require a separate inspection fee from the Top Out or Rough-In inspection fees.
15. **Final Inspection** - Final inspections shall be performed after all fixtures are installed and the plumbing system is completely installed with water service on. This inspection must be completed before the homeowner moves into the residence or the business moves into the building. **If a plumber fails to pass a final inspection before residents move into the structure, a \$500 hazard fee will be applied to the plumber for each address in which this occurs. Plumbers will not be able to pass a final until it is paid and no future plumbing permits will be sold until the fee is paid, nor will any inspections on other structures be completed until the fee is paid. Water service will not be disconnected out of the builders name and connected in the new residents name until a final has been completed.**
16. **Yard Line Inspection** - Yardlines may be inspected at any time during the construction progress. However, if the yardline is installed before a meter service is installed or not connected to the meter service at time of the inspection, another inspection and fee will be required for the connection to the meter service and /or structure. All services shall have a pressure regulator installed before the first branch. All high pressure meter setters (Offset setters or as defined by the water system) shall be required to have a pressure regulator installed just past the shut off valve (that is screwed directly to the brass nipple) **AND** a pressure regulator installed at the house (Two regulators required for high pressure services). **A threaded shut off valve shall be installed directly to the threaded brass nipple supplied by the water system.** This valve is required for customer access to shut off their water service, at their convenience. The valve shall be covered with a box large enough for the customer to easily access, similar to the meter box being connected to. The box shall not be a piece of pipe or other similar make shift device. The WWA's valves, installed with the meter service, **are not** for use by the customer. Minimum yard service line shall be 1 inch of Schedule 40; SDR 7, 9, 11 HDPE; SDR 13.5 or 17 PVC; PEX; or Type "K" Rolled Copper. **SDR 21 PVC will not be allowed** All Service lines shall be installed with tracer wire. Tracer wire shall be #12 or #14 Solid Copper wire. Yard services lines shall be buried at least 24 inches deep to stay below the frost line.
17. **Temporary Hydrant Inspection** - Temporary hydrants are allowed by the WWA for the installation of construction meters during the construction of the structure. This hydrant shall be of sufficient type to prevent freezing of the system in the winter. The hydrant will be required to be installed with a vacuum breaker attached or incorporated into it. If the hydrant is a frost proof hydrant, then a dual check valve must be installed before the hydrant.
18. Each meter service will be required to have a pressure regulator installed on the customer's side of the meter service. This may be installed at the meter box next to the shut-off valve, just before entering the house, inside the house as allowed by plumbing code, or any other acceptable area as approved by WWA plumbing inspectors. The pressure regulator shall be installed as to allow customers to easily access and adjust as necessary. All high pressure meter setters (Offset or Tandem setters or as defined by the water system) shall be required to have a pressure regulator installed just past the shut off valve (that is screwed directly to the brass nipple) **AND** a pressure regulator installed at the house (Two regulators required for high pressure services).

19. All residences must have their numeric address posted on-site before any inspections will be performed. The plumber should notify the owner that the address must be permanently posted upon completion of the residence. **An inspection will fail if an address is not correctly posted.**
20. It is the master plumber's sole responsibility to contact the WWA office regarding plumbing inspections. It is **not** the responsibility of the Owner or Contractor.
21. All Arkansas State Plumbing Code minimum requirements and any additional WWA plumbing code requirements shall be followed on each and every project. In the event a situation occurs that is extremely abnormal and the plumber and inspector cannot find a remedy for the situation, the Area State Plumbing Inspector will be contacted for corrective actions necessary to bring the situation in compliance with the Arkansas State Plumbing Code.
22. The Washington Water Authority is not responsible for any costs incurred by the plumber in order to correct any action necessary to meet the requirements of this document or the Arkansas State Plumbing Code.
23. All structures containing a water heater shall have a Thermal Expansion Tank or Thermal Expansion Valve installed correctly upon inspection, in accordance with Sections 607.3, 607.3.1, and 607.3.2 of the Arkansas State Plumbing Code.
24. All PEX piping shall be installed with the Arkansas Plumbing Code minimum requirements. However, all wall and floor stub-outs on PEX systems shall be copper and shall be securely fastened, as determined by the WWA plumbing inspector.
25. Air admittance valves will not be approved for use.
26. Tiny homes, Park Model RV's, etc. will require inspections to insure compliance with plumbing code. Park Model RV's will not be allowed to be direct connected to the public water system, unless applicant can provide documentation that Park Model RV has been inspected to meet Federal Plumbing Code Requirements (as with Modular Homes) or the plumbing can be removed and replumbed by a licensed master plumber and inspected to insure compliance with ADH and WWA plumbing code requirements.
27. All service line replacements shall require a plumbing permit and shall be inspected by a plumbing inspector of WWA. A repair is defined as a correction of a plumbing leak involving the repair or replacement of 5 feet or less of service line. A repair must be completed by a person that meets the requirements of the Arkansas State Plumbing Law. A replacement of service line is defined as the installation of more than 5 feet of pipe to correct a leak or otherwise necessary for service line installation. A replacement of service line may require a new shut-off valve and regulator be installed as part of the plumbing replacement. Plumbing for any repair or replacement shall be installed to all current regulations and requirements. Any question regarding a service line repair or replacement should be directed directly to a licensed plumbing inspector employed by WWA. Final determination of any plumbing decision will be made by the General Manager of WWA or the State Plumbing Inspector.
28. All new plumbing from this point forward must be installed and inspected in accordance with the Arkansas State Plumbing Code minimum requirements and any additional Washington Water Authority plumbing requirements.