

## ARTICLE V. PLUMBING CODE

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### FOOTNOTE(S):

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**Cross reference**— Water utility, ch. 46, art. II; storm and sanitary sewers, ch. 46, art. III.

**State Law reference**— Plumbing, Wis. Stat. ch. 145.

#### **Sec. 103-226. - Penalties.**

Except as otherwise provided in this article, violations of this article are a Class C offense as provided in section 1-7.

(Code 1980, § 19.13)

#### **Sec. 103-227. - State plumbing credentials required.**

No person shall carry on the business of plumbing or do any plumbing work until such person shall have first obtained the ~~required~~approved license or registration to do so from the State. No person shall install plumbing unless at all times a Wisconsin licensed master plumber, master plumber-restricted or utility contractor is in charge, who shall be responsible for the proper installation. No plumbing credential is required to repair faucets, valves, pipes and appliances nor to remove stoppages in waste and drain pipes.

(Code 1980, § 19.01)

#### **Sec. 103-228. - Adoptions by reference.**

(a) The provisions of Wis. Admin. Code chs. SPS 305 and 381—386 and Wis. Stat. ch. 145 are hereby adopted by reference as part of this article. No plumbing shall be installed except in accordance with such provisions and this ~~article~~Code.

(b) All one- and two-family dwellings and manufactured ~~buildings for~~ dwellings, the initial construction of which was commenced on or after June 1, 1980, and additions or alterations to ~~all one- and two-family dwellings, and manufactured, modular or mobile homes, such dwellings~~ shall comply with Wis. Admin. Code ch. SPS 325, which is herein adopted by reference and made a part hereof.

(Code 1980, § 19.02)

#### **Sec. 103-229. - Permits.**

(a) *Plumbing permits.* No plumbing work shall be installed without a permit therefore from the Fire Department – Division of Fire PreventionPlanning and Building SafetyDevelopment, except that no plumbing permit is required for repairing faucets, valves, pipes and appliances nor for removing stoppages in waste and drain pipes. Any plumbing work installed without a permit may be ordered removed and replaced by the City Plumbing Inspector. Department of Planning and Development. The applicant for a plumbing permit shall file with the Fire Department – Division of Fire PreventionPlanning and Building SafetyDevelopment the application and plans showing the work to be done. Plans shall be required for all buildings, including multi-familymultifamily dwellings, and shall show all drainage, ~~and~~ vent piping and water distribution systems in detail. Upon approval thereof and payment of the permit fees, a permit shall be issued. No permit shall be granted except to a Wisconsin licensed master plumber, master plumber-restricted or utility contractor.

(b) *Excavation permits.* No person shall make any excavation in any street, alley, highway, sidewalk, or other public way for the purpose of installing or repairing any sewer, water or gas pipe or main, or other underground conduit, or for any other purpose, or shall damage any pavement, sidewalk, crosswalk, drain, sewer, water pipe or main, without first having obtained a permit in accordance with section 40-33.

(c) *Demolition permits.* When a building is to be razed, the water and sewer laterals shall be cut off and capped with approved fittings, inside and within ten feet of property line, before the structure is removed. The demolition permit, as prescribed in section 103-34, shall not be issued until the plumbing inspection is made and measurements taken.

(d) *Expiration.* All plumbing permits shall expire two years from date of approval unless there is continuous performance of the work for which issued. Permits ~~automatically~~ expire if when work is not commenced within six months from the date of issuance or ceases for a period of 60 days, ~~without good cause.~~

(e) .Permit Fees ~~required.~~

(1) The fees provided for herein shall include all plumbing fixtures, appliances, devices, or traps to be installed, or openings roughed in for future installation, which will be, or are connected to the water supply or drainage system, directly or indirectly or both. This includes garbage disposals, dishwashersdisposal units, water heaters, water treatment devicessofteners, roof drains and devices connected to the building storm drains, along with fees for the inspection of changes or alterations in building drains, stacks, vents, and plumbing work where no fixtures are installed.

(2) Permit fees shall be based upon the physical value of the work to be done as determined by the Fire Department – Division of Fire PreventionPlanning and Building SafetyDevelopment on the basis of current costs in the amount established by resolution.

(Code 1980, § 19.03)

**Cross reference**— Persons indebted to City not to be issued permit, license or lease, § 2-292.

(3) The above permit fees shall be double where construction is commenced before a permit is issued. Other penalties provided by this Code may also be invoked.

(4) In addition to the permit fee, for all additions or alterations, record maintenance fees are required as provided for in Appendix C of this Code.

### **Sec. 103-230. - Inspections and tests.**

All piping, traps and fixtures of plumbing, water and sewer or drainage, systems shall be left uncovered until inspected and approved. There shall be inspections and testing of the following:

(1) The building sewer and all branches from the main to the building. All such piping shall be tested with water or air.

- (2) The building drain with all branches, receptacles and connections, soil waste and vent pipes, traps and all work known as roughing-in and underground work, stormwater conductors and their roof extensions when within the walls of any building. All such piping shall be tested with water, air, smoke, or manometer.
- (3) The water lateral, fire protection services, wells, pumps, and all branches from the main to the building. All such piping shall be tested at the maximum pressure under which it is to be used.
- (4) The entire water distribution system in all buildings, including meter loop and piping to appliances or plumbing fixtures. All such piping shall be tested at the maximum pressure under which it is to be used.
- (5) All repairs, relaying, alterations, and additions to the sewer drains, stacks, vents, waste pipes, or water services, water pipe and fixtures.
- (6) No person shall break open or make connections with any public sewer or water main, except in the presence of ~~an employee of the~~ City Plumbing Inspector, Department of Planning and Development. The connection shall be inserted at or before 3:00 p.m. on regular business days and measurement taken.
- (7) Final inspection. When a plumbing and drainage system or water system is completed and the fixtures installed, the final inspection shall be made. No plumbing or drainage system shall be used until it has been inspected and approved, unless special permission is given by the Fire Department – Division of Fire PreventionPlanning and Building SafetyDevelopment, for temporary use. It is recommended that the plumber be on the job when the final inspection is made.
- (8) Notice for inspections. The plumber in charge shall notify the Fire Department – Division of Fire PreventionPlanning and Building SafetyDevelopment at least two business days24 hours before any inspection or any connection with an existing sewer main or water main. The plumber in charge shall make arrangements that will enable the City Plumbing Inspector to reach all parts of the building readily, and shall have present the proper apparatus and appliances and shall furnish all materials and all labor necessary for making all the tests required in making the inspection.

(Code 1980, § 19.04)

(9) Reinspections. When the plumber in charge notifies the Fire Department – Division of Fire Prevention and Building Safety that all code corrections are completed and it is found that violations still exists there shall be a fee as established by resolution for each additional inspection.

(10) Disclaimer on inspections. The disclaimer prescribed in section 103-68 shall apply to and include the installation of plumbing systems by the plumber responsible for the work performed.

#### **Sec. 103-231. - Defective work and materials.**

If tests or inspection disclose defective material, leakage, unworkmanlike construction, or other violation of this article, such violation shall be removed and replaced within three days, and, when necessary, retested. The presence of any foreign substance about a joint or any part of a plumbing or drainage system shall be sufficient cause for condemning such joint or part of the system. Split fittings, hubs, and improper or defective materials which have been condemned by the Fire Department – Division of Fire PreventionPlanning and Building SafetyDevelopment shall be removed from the system and not used again. Poor workmanship, design, improper grade or alignment, or methods of installation likewise shall be sufficient cause for the condemnation of the whole or any part of the system.

(Code 1980, § 19.05)

#### **Sec. 103-232. - Method of excavation.**

All openings cut in concrete pavement shall be sawed to a depth of two inches before breaking out such pavement. No more than one-half the width of the street shall be opened up. All openings and excavations shall be made as to cause the least obstruction to the street or alley, so as not to interfere with the passage of water along the gutters, and shall remain open no longer than necessary to make connection or complete the work.

(Code 1980, § 19.06)

**Sec. 103-233. - Board of public works to replace pavements.**

All pavement, macadam, sidewalk, crosswalk, curb or gutter disturbed in plumbing work shall be replaced by the Board of Public Works, and the person securing the permit shall pay the cost of such replacement, upon statements rendered, to the Director of Finance/Treasurer.

(Code 1980, § 19.07)

**Sec. 103-234. - Property lines.**

Sewer and water laterals pipes shall be located within the property lines or on public land only. Septic tanks and drywells shall be located within the property and not less than five feet from the property lines.

(Code 1980, § 19.08)

**Sec. 103-235. - Defects in existing systems.**

Plumbing or drainage or water piping which becomes defective or improper, or other conditions endangering health, or violating this article, shall be corrected within such time as is specified by the Fire Department – Division of Fire Prevention Planning and Building Safety Development.

(Code 1980, § 19.09)

**Sec. 103-236. - Additional regulations.**

(a) *Water supply.* All water service installations shall comply with Water Utility rates, rules, regulations, policies and ordinances governing the introduction, supply, installation and consumption of water.

(b) *Sewers.*

(1) *Connections with sewer mains.* The City Engineer shall inform plumbers of the position and junctions of sewer mains as far as known, but the City shall not be responsible for the correctness of such information. When no junctions are found in a public sewer within three feet from the flow side of the measurement given by the City Engineer, a length of the sewer main shall be removed and a "Y" connection inserted in its place to serve as the connection. If the building sewer is five inches in size or less, and permission is given by the Fire Department – Division of Fire Prevention Planning and Building Safety Development, a new tap or connection may be made by tapping the main, by carefully cutting a round opening in the main so a hub of the private sewer will rest on the sewer main, such hub to have a short piece of pipe extended into the tap to be flush with the inside wall of the main. Where the hub is placed on top of the sewer main, a cast iron pipe rest shall be placed on the main before the hub is placed on the main. Such connection shall be secured by ample cementing or grouting. The cement used shall be composed of one part cement to two parts of clean sharp sand. All such work shall be done only in the presence of an employee of the City Plumbing Inspector, Department of Planning and Development. All such junctions shall be made at the expense of the plumber.

(2) *Sewers to be kept free from sand.* No plumber shall allow any earth, sand or other solid material to pass, flow or run into any sewer while cutting into or making any connection therewith, or while doing any work in laying, altering or repairing any drain connected with the main sewer. All sewer pipes shall be laid with bell end up grade and laid on a firm bed of earth which shall be thoroughly tamped.

(c) *Boilers.*

- (1) All potable water ~~supply~~ lines to water or steam boilers shall have a control valve and cross connection control back flow prevention installed before the water supply enters the boiler. All water and steam boilers shall have a temperature and pressure relief valve installed on the boiler.
- (2) ~~Boiler~~All boiler compounds and other compounds, solutions ~~or, and~~ chemicals that are in contact with or injected into the boiler ~~may~~shall be of a type that is nonpoisonous and nontoxic. The user shall supply the Fire Department – Division of Fire Prevention Planning and Building Safety Development with a certified statement by a nationally recognized testing laboratory that such ~~compound, chemical or~~ solution or chemical is nonpoisonous and nontoxic by virtue of tests conducted before the boiler is put into operation. Nonpoisonous and nontoxic additives shall only be used after installation of an approved backflow prevention device between the boiler and potable water within a year thereof. Poisonous or toxic compounds, solutions or chemicals ~~may be used only after installation of an indirect connection between the City water service and the unit in which the chemical is used, so that potable water shall only not be used after installation of an approved reduced pressure device between the boiler and potable water in contact or possible contact with the poisonous compound.~~
- (3) Steam boilers shall have safety feeders and low water cutoffs installed. Steam boiler feeder and low water cutoffs shall have separate controls and not combined.

(d) Private wells. Permitting of private~~Private~~ wells shall be as required in section 46-41. All private water supplies shall be uncontaminated and the source shall, in construction or abandonment, comply with the specifications of Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 812, which is hereby adopted by reference.

(e) Cross connections. The public water system shall be protected from all cross connections as required in section 46-40. No potable. ~~(1) Prohibited water-drainage system interconnection. No direct plumbing fixture or pipe connection shall be connected to made between any part of a drainage the water supply system and any part of the plumbing drainage system, sewers, or impure water supply system, unless adequately protected against back-siphonage. When a new (2) Inlet elevation. The water lateral is connected to the public supply inlet shall terminate at least two pipe diameters, but not less than one inch, above the maximum possible water system the existing private well shall only be allowed to be used for outdoor hydrants, irrigation systems, HVAC systems or other uses as level of the fixture, tank or vat, so as to prevent the possibility of back-siphonage. (3) Vacuum breaker. If the water supply inlet cannot be raised above the maximum possible water level, an approved by the Water Utility. Private well type of vacuum breaker shall be installed between the control valve and the fixtures in such manner that no back-siphonage is possible under any degree of vacuum in the water lines with water in the fixture at the maximum possible water level. For positive protection, each such fixture shall be isolated from all municipal water systems. have a vacuum breaker installed six inches above the maximum water level or approved height for specific application. (4) Maximum water level. The height to which water can rise in a fixture, tank or vat before it flows freely into the open atmosphere above the fixture rim or through adequate size openings. (5) Special equipment. All water supply equipment and appliances serving special fixtures shall conform with the intent and purpose of this section. Any unusual use for water, as for air-conditioning equipment, hydraulic elevators, presses, pumps, fountains, etc., shall be given special consideration in relation to possible pollution of the pure water supply system.~~

(f) Discharge of sewage or wastes. No person shall discharge sewage, industrial wastes, or effluent, except clear water, into any lake, pond, river, or stream or into any storm sewer connected with or discharging into said waters. No person shall permit any sanitary drain or ~~wastesewer~~ to discharge into any open storm sewer or gutter, upon the ground, in any public street or alley, or upon any sidewalk.

(g) Private Sewage Systems. The Board of Public Works shall approve any private sewage system within the corporate limits of the City of La Crosse. ~~Septic tanks and drywells.~~ Septic or other sewage treatment tanks and seepage pits, ~~drywells~~, or drainage fields shall be constructed where no public

sewerage system is available or likely to become available within a reasonable time, conforming to the Wisconsin State Plumbing Code as to location, materials, capacity, design, disposal of sludge and effluent, and ventilation. Connection with the public sewer shall be made within six months after the public sewer is available. All abandoned septic tanks, drywells, seepage pits, cisterns, and wells shall be immediately removed or filled, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § SPS ~~38383~~.33.

(h) *Tracer wires.* A tracer wire shall be installed, with all nonmetallic laterals, from the main, curb stop or property line to building, and it shall be sized to a minimum of #12 AWG copper covered conductor. The wire covering color code for piping type shall be blue for water, green for sanitary, and brown for storm laterals.

(i) *Miscellaneous requirements.*

(1) Plumbing installations shall comply with sections 103-328 and 103-337.

~~(2)~~ No fire or flames shall be used to thaw frozen pipes.

~~(3)~~ All pipe holes are to be plugged for fire stopping, and those which are abandoned and empty and those which are larger than the pipe, either with the same material through which the opening is made or with noncombustible material.

~~(4)~~ Where existing plumbing is to be remodeled or additional fixtures installed, the new or remodeled portions of the plumbing system shall conform to the regulations of this article.

~~(4)~~ The ends of all sewer and drain pipes not immediately connected and the open ends of all abandoned sewers shall be securely closed to prevent the introduction of sand and earth.

~~(5)~~ All water treatment units shall be provided with a by-pass system including an inlet valve, an outlet valve and by-pass valve. Such by-pass installation shall be of the same size piping as the piping supplying the unit, with a minimum size of three-fourths-inch diameter.

~~(6)~~ Plumbing installations for accessory structures shall be restricted in accordance with section 115-~~390-390~~.

(Code 1980, § 19.10(A)-~~(I)~~)—~~(J)~~

### **Sec. 103-237. - Sampling manholes.**

When any of the conditions listed under ~~subsection~~section 46-109(a) exist or have the potential to exist, the City may require the installation of sampling manholes for periodic sewage monitoring as provided under Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 382.35(3)(L).

(Code 1980, § 19.11)