



A BCD field office, the Tri-County Service Center administers the minor label program and coordinates forms, processes, and application of code for building programs in Clackamas, Multnomah, & Washington counties.

**Tri-County Service Center**

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A quarterly newsletter for plumbers and plumbing contractors

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## Plumbing code forum to be January 24

Tri-county-area plumbers and plumbing contractors are invited to attend a code forum on Thursday, January 24 from 4-7 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association, will be at the Clackamas County Sunnybrook Service Center, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Boulevard, Clackamas.

Contractors may submit questions to the Tri-County Service Center in advance by calling (503) 872-6731. BCD has approved three hours of continuing education credit for attending the forum.

The purpose of the code forums is to discover and to discuss inconsistent code applications in the region and reach consensus about consistent installation and inspection standards. The next forum will be April 25. ●

## Commercial plumbing minor labels available

Beginning January 1, contractors may use plumbing minor labels for commercial as well as for one- and two-family installations. The installer must have the correct license for the job and the installations must be within the scope of the plumbing minor label rules.

Plumbing contractors may download an application from the BCD Web site: [www.oregonbcd.org/tricounty/minorlabel/appforms.htm](http://www.oregonbcd.org/tricounty/minorlabel/appforms.htm), or call the service center at (503) 872-6731 to request a form. Contractors can buy minor labels at the front counter of the center, 123 NE 3<sup>rd</sup>, Suite 440, or order them by mail or fax, (503) 872-6735. The center accepts check, money order, VISA, MasterCard, or cash.

For more information, check our Web site, [www.oregonbcd/tricounty/index.htm](http://www.oregonbcd/tricounty/index.htm). ●

## Code forum Q and A

The following questions and answers were discussed at the October 25 plumbing code forum. All tri-county building departments have agreed to follow the guidance provided in these answers. Area contractors are encouraged to submit new questions concerning inconsistent code calls to the center at least one week prior to the forum.

**Q Relying on code cite 1006.00 of the Oregon plumbing code, one tri-county jurisdiction holds that when a floor drain or a floor sink receives discharge from an espresso or soda machine, the drain must be vented. This jurisdiction seems to be the only jurisdiction in the tri-county area that applies the code this way. What does the panel think?**

**A** OSPSC Section 1006.0 exception requires floor sinks, hub drains, and similar indirect waste receptors that receive discharge waste from fixtures only to be individually vented. The trap primer is not required. Espresso and soda machines are not fixtures, they are pieces of equipment. Therefore, the indirect waste receptor serving those devices shall be trapped and primed but not vented according to Section 1006.0, Table 10-1.1 and Section 1007.0, OSPSC. The term “fixture” as used in Section 1006.0 Exception, means a sink-type fixture only, which is required to have an indirect drain. Examples are food prep sinks,

vegetable or fruit prep sinks or meat prep sinks. As long as the floor sink/drain trap is in compliance with Table 10.1.1 of the Oregon Plumbing Code, an individual vent is not required.

**Q When removing a tub and installing a new tub, is it necessary to upsize the waste line to two inches all the way to the stack, or just to the vent? Does it make a difference if the tub is a whirlpool or standard regarding the drain line?**

**A** Yes, although Table 7-3 of the Oregon Plumbing Code assigns a bath tub or combination tub and shower a 1.5-inch trap and trap arm and a whirlpool-tub a 2-inch trap and trap arm. Section 301.1.4 of the Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code, covering existing buildings, gives the jurisdiction the discretion to allow deviation from the provisions of current code when making installations in existing buildings. Contractors wishing to deviate from current code — for example, installing a whirlpool to a 1.5-inch waste line with 1.5-inch trap and trap arm — must contact the jurisdiction before making the installation so that the jurisdiction can determine whether the installation will meet the health-and safety requirements.

**Q Table 7-3 of the 2000 Oregon Plumbing Code lists the following fixtures along with the required trap and trap-arm sizes and fixture units:**

Continued . . .



Clackamas  
Multnomah  
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COUNTIES

*News Splash*

**Wanted:**

Your questions! Have inconsistent code calls confounded you? Send your questions to the Tri-County code panel. Save time, money and frustration by having your question answered once and for all. *Jurisdictions have agreed that the panel's answers become the inspection standard for the region.*

Call (503) 872-6731 for more info.

Individual fixture	Minimum size trap/trap arm	Fixture unit private use
Bathtub or combination bath/shower	1½-inches	3 fu
Whirlpool bath or combination bath/shower	2-inch	3 fu

**Some plumbing inspectors in the tri-county area are requiring that whirlpool bathtubs for private use, which are manufactured with 1½-inch waste outlets, be installed with 2" traps and trap arms. Because the "combination bath/shower" wording is common to both fixture listings, I interpret the intent as requiring a 2-inch trap and trap arm only on those whirlpool bathtubs or combination bath/shower fixtures manufactured with 2-inch waste outlets. Am I correct?**

**A** No. Table 7-3 does not address waste outlets as a determining factor in trap sizing. A standard bath tub/shower combination is allowed a 1½-inch trap and trap arm. Whirlpool baths or whirlpool combination bath/showers are required to have 2-inch traps and trap arms. Each tub type is assigned three fixture units.

**Q** OAR 918-780-0140 (1), (2) describes "plumbing systems" and "plumbing fixtures." Does the scope of work under a plumbing minor label cover gas piping? For example, if a gas water heater is moved and the contractor needs to extend the gas piping or run a gas line off an existing inspected gas line future tee to a new fixture, would the minor label cover this? Are there any situations in which minor labels would cover gas line work?

**A** No, the scope of work under plumbing minor labels does not include gas pipe installations. At some point, the Tri-County Board may consider a mechanical minor label program.

440-2727 (12/01/COM)

**Q** In my jurisdiction, the plumbing inspectors have been citing the cutting and notching code section (3113.11) of the One & Two Family Dwelling Code. The contractors and subcontractors have told us we are the only jurisdiction in the state making these calls. How is over-cutting and notching justified without corrections? Please advise us so that we can be consistent with other Tri-County jurisdictions.

**A** Because the cutting and notching provision is in the plumbing code, such violations may and should be addressed by the plumbing inspector. And because this provision is also in the building code, it is also the responsibility of the carpenter or framer. The code panel recommends that the plumbing and building contractor communicate about any boring or notching problems that must be repaired before inspections. If there are problems, the plumbing/building inspector should meet with the plumbing and building contractors on-site to discuss the situation.

**Q** *Reference:* The One & Two Family Dwelling Code 3409.4 Testing. Upon completion of a section or of the entire hot and cold water system, it shall be tested and proved tight under water pressure not less than the working pressure under which it is to be used. **The plumbers in our area say we are the only jurisdiction calling for a test on one-piece PEX and CPVC water service prior to burial. Is testing before burial not a requirement in other jurisdictions? Can one-piece PEX or CPVC water service be covered before it is tested and approved?**

**A** No, PEX or CPVC water service pipe must be inspected before covering, but the pipe may be covered before it is tested. According to code requirements, all piping must be inspected and approved for cover before it is buried. When water is not available for testing or manufacturers' requirements prohibit air testing, the jurisdiction may allow the contractor to cover the pipe after inspection approval, but before it is tested. Pressure testing is an example of a test that can be performed at a later date. ●

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