



Snohomish County
Planning and Development
Services

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ONLINE INFORMATION
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Homeowner Plumbing Permits

Assistance Bulletin

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Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

Q: Do I need a permit to do plumbing work on my own home?

A: Yes. Snohomish County Code allows property owners to perform plumbing work on their own property, provided they apply for and secure a Homeowner Plumbing Permit and all work is performed in compliance with the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC).

Q: How do I get a Homeowner Plumbing Permit?

A: You can go on-line to “mybuildingpermit.com” and apply or visit our office and the plumbing permit can be issued over the counter. All fixtures, finished or unfinished, must be listed on the permit.

Q: When will I get my permit?

A: If you apply through mybuildingpermit.com, it takes only minutes to apply and permits are typically returned within three hours, via email. If you choose to visit our office to obtain your permit, you will check in with the greeter station and receive an application to fill out. The permit will be issued, payment paid to PDS, and you will leave with your permit.

Q: Do I need to have my system tested?

A: Yes. After the drainage system is roughed in, and before plasterboard or other materials are used to cover it, the system must be tested for leaks by filling it with water through the vents to roof height. Any piping below a concrete floor must also be tested and inspected prior to cover. The system must be free of leaks and approved by the Plumbing Inspector before any part of the system is concealed. Water piping must be tested with such pressure as is available and must be approved before being concealed. A 50 psi air test on water lines or working pressure is acceptable.

Q: Is there any other code information I should know about?

A: Following are some of the most common answers requested by homeowners:

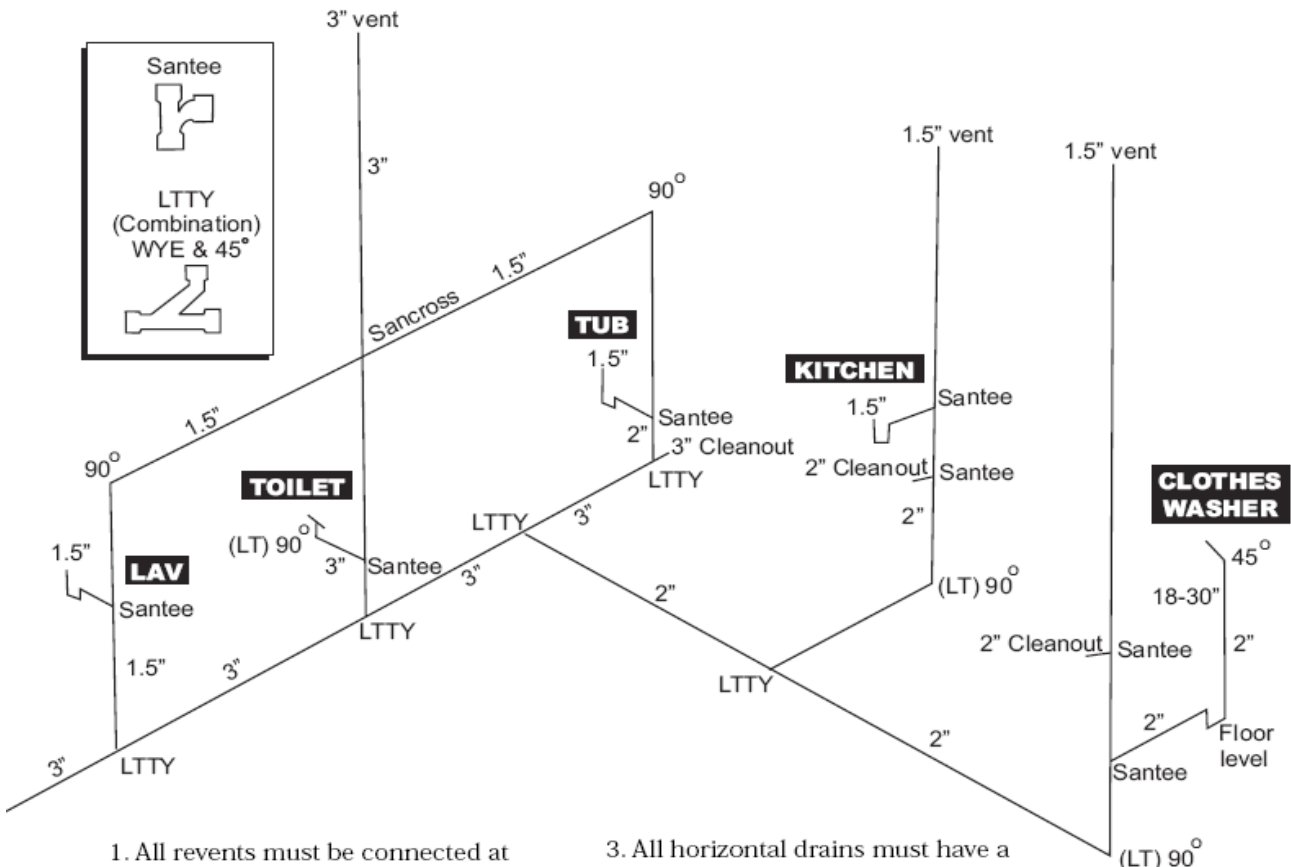
- Piping: Water service piping from source of supply to building must be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or larger. Plastic service piping designed PE, PEX, PVC or CPVC is allowed for cold-water distribution systems outside of a building. The piping must be buried a minimum of two feet deep and be capable of withstanding 160 psi or higher, depending on the street pressure. Plastic piping used for hot and cold water distribution within a building must be designed CPVC or PEX. All water-piping systems shall be sized according to tables 6-4 and 6-5 of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

- Solder: All solder used on potable water copper piping must be lead-free and underslab must be brazed.
- Valves: A pressure-reducing valve is required if the street pressure is 80 psi or more, so that no fixtures exceed 80 psi. A full-flow valve is to be installed on the incoming water line in an accessible location. A full-flow valve is to be installed on the cold-water supply (3/4 inch) at the water heater location on the "rough-in" plumbing.
- Water Heaters: All water heaters shall be equipped with an approved temperature- and pressure-relief valve and discharged to an approved location outside the building.
- Kitchen Sinks and Dishwashers: Kitchen sinks and dishwashers require a two-inch drain and cleanout.
- Drainage: Materials acceptable for drainage waste and vent systems must be cast iron, galvanized, copper (DMV) or plastic (ABS or PVC).
- Backflow Prevention: Hose bibs and other hose attachments must be protected from back-siphonage by a vacuum breaker or other approved backflow prevention device. (Sil-cocks for clothes washers are not included).

Q: Who should I call if I have questions?

A: If you have any questions regarding any of the above, you may contact the inspections group at 425-388-3632 or plans examiners group at 425-388-3311 ext. 2711.



1. All revents must be connected at least 6" above the flood level rim of the fixture served.
2. All horizontal drainage fillings must be LTTY's (combination). Vertical drains can be installed with Santees. Vents may be installed with Santees.
3. All horizontal drains must have a minimum of 1/4" per foot grade toward the sewer.
4. Vents must be unobstructed for their entire length. When extended through the roof, they shall be 6-12" in height.