What You Should Know About Plumbing Permits

PERMIT FEES:

Please refer to 2007 San Francisco Building Code, Table 1A-C for fee information.

The fee table is available online at http://www.sfgov.org/dbi or by contacting the Department of Building Inspection at (415) 558-6088.

WHY IS A PLUMBING PERMIT REQUIRED?

A plumbing permit is required to assure compliance with the California Plumbing and/or Mechanical Code. Additionally, permits document any and all work done to a particular property and memorialize documentation of the work for future transactions regarding the property.

Want a DBI Pro to brief your community/organization on permits and inspection issues? Please contact us at 415-558-6089 or DBICommunityOutreach@sfgov.org and we will make it happen.
The Plumbing Permit Process

The Plumbing Inspection Division is a division of the Department of Building Inspection whose job is to ensure that water systems, drainage and waste piping systems, gas piping systems, and vents from gas-fired appliances, water heaters and furnaces are installed according to the Plumbing and Mechanical Codes of the City and County of San Francisco.

When do I need a plumbing permit?

A plumbing permit is not required for:

1. Repair of leaks not requiring cutting into or removing piping
2. Unstopping of traps, sewers, vents or waste pipes not requiring cutting into or removal of piping
3. Replacement, repair or maintenance of faucets, valves, hosebibs or roof drains not requiring cutting into or removal of piping
4. Replacement of toilets with 1.6 gallon (6.06 liter) per flush toilet fixtures
5. Replacement of furnace filters
6. Removal of drainage, water or gas piping from a building when the water supply, gas and drainage lines have been disconnected in an approved manner under a permit
7. Work involved in setting up for display of plumbing fixtures or appliances, when not connected to any supply or drainage lines, in a sales establishment
8. Installation of plumbing systems installed by a utility company in the operation of their utility business
9. Replacement of water conservation device not requiring cutting into or removal of piping
10. Work performed in building or structures owned and occupied by the State and Federal governments

All other plumbing work requires a permit and inspection.

Who can apply for plumbing permits?

1. A contractor, licensed by the State of California, who is registered with the City and County of San Francisco.
2. The Homeowner, of a single family dwelling, who will perform the work specified under description of work to be performed, by their own hand, and who does occupy or intends to occupy the property, provided said Homeowner can reasonably demonstrate he/she holds the requisite knowledge necessary to perform such work

Note: Condominiums, Townhouses or Duplex type residences are not allowed to issue of a Homeowner’s Permit. Permits for such properties are issued to a State licensed contractor only

How do I apply for a plumbing permit?

When a Plumbing Permit is required, the permit may be filed at 1660 Mission Street or On-Line if the applicant is a registered contractor signatory to DBI database and to the On-Line Program.

A form, Application/Permit to Install Plumbing and Mechanical Worksheet, is to be completed, (sample copy available in Appendix C). Be advised, a Plumbing Permit is a separate and independent permit and as such is not included under a Building or Electrical permit.

If assistance is required in filing for a Plumbing Permit you may come to the 3rd floor of 1660 Mission Street, ask for a Plumbing Inspector and he/she will assist you in the process.

Calling for inspection:

Once the Plumbing permit has been issued, before any work has been covered, and all necessary tests are in place, the Permit Holder, (the person the permit has been issued to) shall call Inspection Services at (415) 558-6570 between the hours of 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM to schedule an inspection appointment.