

Plumbing Code

City of Holdrege, Nebraska

Section 1. Application for Registration. No person or company shall engage in or work in the business or trade of plumbing in the jurisdiction of the City of Holdrege until they have registered as a plumber with the City of Holdrege. Each registration shall be in the name of a licensed Journeyman, Master or Specialty plumber in the classification applied for, who is a full-time employee (works a minimum of 30 hours per week) of the company and is in actual supervision of work performed by the company. Application for registration under the provisions of the Holdrege Plumbing Code shall be made to the City Offices and shall include the name and address of the applicant, the business location of the applicant, proof that the applicant holds a current Master Plumber, Journeyman Plumber or Specialty Plumber's license and submit a current Certificate of Liability Insurance. Such application shall be accompanied by a registration fee set by a Resolution of the City Council. Registrations run concurrently with the license and expire annually on December 31st.

Section 2. Master Plumber. A "Master Plumber" is hereby defined to be a person skilled in the planning, superintending and practical installation of plumbing and drainage, who is familiar with the ordinances and regulations governing the same and who is engaged as a contractor in the installation, repair, alteration or removal of plumbing or drainage with the full responsibility of supervision, whether doing such work by themselves or employing journeyman plumbers and apprentices to assist them and said master plumber shall include every person doing work of any character connected with the installation, removal or repair of any plumbing system or material connected with the drainage of building or property and all work requiring connections with street sewers, water mains or other plumbing other than journeyman plumbers or plumber apprentices or helpers as defined in this ordinance.

Section 3. Journeyman Plumber. "Journeyman Plumber" is hereby defined to be any person whose principal occupation is the practical installation, alteration, repair or removal of plumbing and who has passed the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) Journeyman Plumber Exam.

Section 4. Plumber's Apprentice or Helper. "Plumber's Apprentice or Helper" is defined as any person other than a journeyman plumber or master plumber whose principal occupation is learning and assisting in installing, repairing, altering, or removing plumbing and drainage. No apprentice or helper shall be permitted to work at the installation, repair, or removal of any plumbing or drainage except under the personal supervision and direction of a duly licensed journeyman or master plumber.

Section 5. Specialty Plumber Classification. The specialty contractor, installer and apprentice classifications or plumbers shall be limited to the following: drain layer, lawn sprinkler contractor, water conditioner installer, water heater installer and swimming pool installer. By definition, all areas of specialty plumber classifications are included in the master plumber classification, but by definition, any specialty plumber classification does not include the master plumber classification. The specialty plumber classification shall be divided into the specialized areas of the plumbing trade as defined below:

- (a)Water Conditioner Contractor: Any corporation, firm, partnership or individual owner replacing, removing or repairing water conditioning devices. Initial installation of the connection is to be done by a Master or Journeyman Plumber.
- (b)Lawn Sprinkler Contractor: Any corporation, firm, partnership or individual owner engaged in the installation, replacement, removal or repair of lawn sprinkler systems. Such a contractor shall only be allowed to connect to a potable water source and obtain a Lawn Sprinkler permit if he/she holds a current Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Grade 6 Water Supply Operator Certificate. Initial installation of the connection is to be done by a Master or Journeyman plumber.
- (c)Swimming Pool Contractor: Any corporation, firm, partnership or individual owner engaged in the business of installing, replacing, removing or repairing any swimming pool, spa, hot tub or therapeutic bath that has permanent connections to either or both of the potable water supply of the public sewer system either in private installations or for public usage—installation of connection to be done by a Master or Journeyman Plumber.

Section 6. Plumbing Inspector; Duties; Assistants. Shall act under the direction of the Municipal Services Superintendent and supervise all plumbing and drain laying in the jurisdiction of the City of Holdrege, performing such duties as described hereafter. They shall have the right to enter any building in said jurisdiction to perform their duties during regular business hours and may have such assistants or assistants as the Municipal Services Director may provide. Assistants shall have the same powers and duties as the Plumbing Inspector.

Section 7. Plumbing Inspector will investigate all reported cases. The Plumbing Inspector may investigate all cases reported to or referred to them of the use of imperfect material or workmanship on any job of plumbing work or the violation of the provisions of this ordinance by a plumber, builder or owner and stop such work to order the same removed and replaced in a proper and workmanlike manner to conform to the spirit and intent of this ordinance. They may further request the City Attorney to file a complaint against any person, persons, firm, or corporation for a violation of any provision of this ordinance. It shall be the duty of the City Attorney to prosecute the same without unnecessary delay.

Section 8. Plumbing Inspector, Civil Liability. In no case shall any damage caused by any test made by the Plumbing Inspector in the discharge of their duties as provided in this Section be charged as damages to the City of Holdrege or the Plumbing Inspector. In all cases where damages are caused in making such tests, the master plumber in charge of the work so tested shall be responsible, and the sureties or surety on their bond shall be chargeable for said damages, provided this Section shall not be construed to remove or lessen the liability of any person owning, operating, controlling or installing and plumbing for damages to person or property injured by any defect in said work nor shall the City of Holdrege or said Inspector be held as assuming any such liability because of any inspection authorized hereunder or of any license or permit issued hereunder.

Section 9. Plumbers' Examination Required. No person shall perform plumbing installation or work covered by the Plumbing Code without first having obtained a license to do so. Before the applicant can be licensed as a master or journeyman plumber, they shall submit to an examination to determine their fitness and competency to engage in the business of a master plumber or journeyman plumber through the current certification procedure of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials. An applicant must have worked under the supervision of a licensed journeyman or master plumber for four (4) continuous years before being eligible to take a journeyman plumber's examination and shall not be eligible for a master plumber's examination until after three (3) continuous years' experience as a journeyman plumber. Upon the payment of the required licensing fee, such applicants, after having passed said examination, shown themselves to be fit, competent and qualified to engage in the business of a master plumber or journeyman plumber, shall be registered and issued a license by the City Clerk. Any applicant who fails to pass the required examination shall not be eligible to retake the examination until thirty (30) days have elapsed.

Journeyman and Master Plumber tests will be taken on the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) testing website. The applicant registers for the test online and is contacted by IAPMO with the results.

Section 10. Plumbers Exceptions. The provisions of this Section and the Plumbing Code (adopted by reference in Chapter 9) relating to licensing and registration shall not apply to any public utility company or companies serving the Municipality and its inhabitants under a franchise agreement with the Municipality or under a separate contract with the Municipality or its agents and employees. They shall not be construed as a limitation or restriction upon any franchise granted by the Municipality.

Section 11. Registration of Corporations, Firms or Partners. Any corporation, firm or partnership may be registered hereunder as a master or journeyman plumber in the name of such corporation, firm or partnership provided that such corporation, firm or partnership shall have a master or journeyman plumber who has passed the applicable International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) test and shown themselves fit, competent and qualified to engage in the business, trade or calling of a master plumber or journeyman plumber. As an officer or employee of such firm or partnership, and who shall at all times be in charge and responsible for the installation, removal or repair of any plumbing or drainage and all plumbing work done by such corporation, firm or partnership.

Section 12. Expiration of License. Such license shall expire on the last day of December and shall not be assignable.

Section 13. Revocation of License. The City Council, by a majority vote, shall have the power to revoke any journeyman plumber's or master plumber's license upon the recommendation of the Municipal Services Superintendent if the same was obtained through error or fraud or if the recipient thereof is shown to be grossly incompetent or has a second time willfully violated any of the provisions of this ordinance of the Plumbing Codes of the City. This penalty shall be cumulative and in addition to the penalties prescribed for violations of this ordinance. If a license is revoked, the holder may not apply for a license until one year after the date of such revocation.

Section 14. Renewal of License. Licenses may be renewed without an examination upon payment of the required license fee as set by City Council resolution.

Section 15. Apprentice or Helper License. No apprentice or helper shall be permitted to work at the installation, alteration, repair or removal of any plumbing or drainage, except under the personal supervision and direction and in the presence of a duly licensed journeyman plumber or master plumber and shall be registered with the City and pay said fees as set by Resolution of the City Council.

Section 16. Licensed Plumbers Shall Not Allow Another Person to Work on Their License. No licensed plumber shall allow their name or license to be used by another person, directly or indirectly, either to obtain a permit for the installation of any plumbing, as required, or to do any plumbing work; and if any licensed plumber violates this provision, the City Council shall revoke the license issued to such plumber. In addition to revoking their license, such a plumber may be prosecuted under the penalty section of this ordinance for such violation.

Section 17. Permit and Application Fees. No installation of any plumbing shall be made without first obtaining a written permit from the City to do so. The applicant for such permit shall be made in writing and shall set forth the name of the owner, agent or occupant of the premises, giving the address, the name and business location of the plumber having charge of the work and a description of the work to be done, setting forth the number and kind of fixtures. Permits shall be issued only to registered Master or Journeyman Plumbers, or to owners, as permitted in Section 25. Permit fees are set by Resolution of the City Council.

Section 18. Minor Repairs. No permit shall be required for minor repair work. Minor repair work, as used in this ordinance, is hereby defined as repairing sink traps, broken fixtures or sink faucets. However, permits will be required for alterations or changes to soil, waste, or vent pipes, or for cutting water supply lines or modifying existing installations. Installing or replacing water heaters and water softeners requires a plumbing permit.

Section 19. Installation of Plumbing by Owner. All plumbing installed by the owner shall comply with the requirements of this ordinance, and in such event, the word "Owner" shall be substituted for the word "Plumber" throughout this ordinance, provided that said owner shall:

- (a) File plans and specifications with the Plumbing Inspector and obtain approval.
- (b) Apply for and secure a permit.
- (c) Pay required fees.
- (d) Do all work in accordance with this Code.
- (e) Apply for and pass inspections.

The owner's personal installation shall be performed by the owner without compensation at the owner's private residence and not at any residential or commercial property not primarily occupied by the Owner. Personal installation is permitted only at the owner's primary residence of record.

Section 20. One in Charge of the Premises shall permit only a Licensed Plumber to do the Work. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation agent, receiver or trustee to cause or permit any job or plumbing or drain laying or making any connection with or opening into any private or public sewer, water distribution system or lay any drain or do any plumbing in connection with any property owned, managed or controlled by such person, firm, corporation, agent receiver or trustee, unless the plumber doing said work had been registered as required by the ordinances of the City and has received a permit from the City for said particular plumbing or drain laying work; and any such person, firm, corporation, agent, receiver or trustee causing or permitting any such work to be done in violation of the provisions hereof shall be guilty of a violation of this ordinance and subject to the penalties herein after provided for such violation.

Section 21. Water Services and Supply Pipe. A permit for all water services must be obtained from the City before installation. All fees must be paid at the time the permit is issued. The City Water Department will tap the water main and run the service to a point at or near the property line on the streets where the commercial main is laid. A curb stop, curb box or meter tub and lid, and two (2) 90-degree meter cells will be furnished and installed by the City Water Department. The applicant shall construct the water service from the meter or curb stop to their property at their expense. From the meter tub to the point of entrance not to exceed two (2) feet inside the house, the water service supply pipe shall be made of plastic pipe, which shall be of Polyethylene PE-Type 3, 3306 as defined by ASTM D 1248-68, 200 lb. working pressure and shall conform to the Commercial Standard CS 255-63 or to be the appropriate National Sanitation Foundation standard. No plumbing device, fixture, or construction shall be installed that may create a cross-connection between the water distribution system and a drainage system, soil, or waste pipe, thereby allowing backflow of sewage or waste into the water system. Water lines may be laid in the same ditch as sewer lines, providing the water line is benched in undisturbed earth on one side and an approved pipe is used.

Section 22. Water Distribution System Pipe. Water distribution system pipe shall be of brass pipe, cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) piping, copper tube or copper pipe; - Cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) piping system for hot and cold water distribution systems shall conform to current ASTM F 876, ASTM F 877 and ANSI/NSF 14, standards and shall be installed according to the respective manufacturers' installation instruction as well as all other applicable sections of the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code. Type M copper may be used only for above-ground water piping in one- and two-family residential occupancies. No plastic pipe, including CPC pipe, except the approved (PEX) system, shall be used for hot or cold-water lines inside any building.

Section 23. Building Drains and Sewers. Vitrified clay pipe shall not be allowed as a building sewer under any building except detached residential garages or as a building drain in any building. Below-grade building drains shall be cast iron or Schedule 40 PVC pipe only. Building sewers shall be soil pipe, Schedule 40 PVC, or cell core pipe. Building sewers shall not be less than four (4) inches in nominal pipe size. No tests will be required for building sewers unless the administrative authority determines that conditions warrant them. Backwater valves in sewer lines will only be required when specified by the Administrative Authority but may be installed when the user or installer determines the need.

Section 24. Excavation in Streets and Alleys. Trenches in public streets or alleys shall be excavated to impede public travel as little as possible. The gutter crossings and all other ways shall be left in such conditions as to allow the ready escape of water during storms. Planks shall always be provided where sidewalks or crossings are opened to facilitate easy crossing over trenches.

Section 25. Approved Barricade Lighting. Approved barricade lighting shall be kept around all unfinished work at night, and sufficient barricades against accidents shall be placed around excavations at all times.

Section 26. Opening and Refilling. The opening and refilling of all trenches on City property shall be done under the direction of the City Engineer or Municipal Services Director. In the event of settling within one (1) year after being refilled, the City Engineer or Municipal Services Director shall have the right to demand and require restoration by the party who made such excavation, except in paved streets where excavation is refilled. The City will re-lay the paving, in which case the party making the excavation shall be released of any obligation to maintain the same. All trenches in streets or alleys shall be thoroughly tamped when refilled. In paved streets or alleys, the City shall remove and replace all pavement and bill the Contractor the cost set by the City Municipal Services Department.

Section 27. Connection of Premises Beyond City Limits. Any person, firm or corporation owning or controlling premises located beyond the corporate limits of the City of Holdrege and desiring to install a plumbing system on said premises to have the same connection with the sanitary sewer system or water system of the City of Holdrege shall have a registered plumber file a written application with the Mayor and City Council for a permit for such connection.

Section 28. Pressure Vacuum Breakers. Pressure vacuum breakers installed to serve lawn sprinkler systems shall conform to all other requirements of this Code and shall be tested upon installation and before being put into use. After that, such devices shall be tested in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation.

Section 29. Water Pressure Regulators. Water pressure regulators will not be required but may be installed if the user or installer determines a need for reduced water pressure. Relief valves may be piped within eight (8) inches of the finished floor in areas served by a floor drain.

Section 30. Unions. Unions shall be required only when they are integral to the equipment being installed or replaced

Section 31. Molded Rubber Coupling Joints. Molded rubber coupling joints may be used underground only. Above-grade molded rubber coupling joints shall be shielded as specified in 705.1.8.

Section 32. All occupied Premises Shall Have Potable Water. One and two-family dwelling units are each to be served by a water service with a minimum of one (1) inch nominal pipe size. The use of private wells within the city limits of the City for domestic purposes shall only be permitted by special permission of the City and only when the City's water distribution system is not available to the premises on which water is required. The availability of the water system shall be at the City's sole discretion.

Section 33. Residential Dishwasher Drains. Residential dishwasher drains may be connected to a separate trap, extended as high as possible within the cabinet, and connected with an air break.

Section 34. Septic Systems and Leach Fields. The requirements and provisions of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control Title 124. Rules and Regulations shall be adopted for the Design, Operation and Maintenance of Septic Tanks. The minimum lot area in which a private disposal system may be installed is twenty thousand (20,000) square feet. The minimum lot area in which a private water system and a private disposal system may be installed is twenty thousand (20,000) square feet.

Section 35. Oil interceptors for Service Facilities and Manufacturing Processes. Oil interceptors for service and industrial applications shall be sized according to the following table or may, with the approval of the Chief Building Official, be sized by an engineer licensed to practice in the State of Nebraska.

Number of Bays Served	Volume of Interceptor/ Flow Capacity of Interceptor	Storage Capacity
1 or 2 bays	10 gallons per minute	50 gallons
3 bays	6 Cu. Ft./25 gpm	100 gallons
4 bays	7 Cu. Ft./35 gpm	100 gallons
5 bays	8 Cu. Ft./35 gpm	100 gallons
6 bays	9 Cu. Ft./50 gpm	100 gallons
7 bays	10 Cu. Ft./50 gpm	100 gallons
8 to 14 bays	20 Cu. Ft./75 gpm	100 gallons
15 to 20 bays	23 Cu. Ft./100 gpm	250 gallons
21 to 25 bays	28 Cu. Ft./150 gpm	250 gallons
26 to 35 bays	38 Cu. Ft./200 gpm	250 gallons
36 to 50 bays	53 Cu. Ft./250 gpm	500 gallons

Over 50 bays are to be designed by a registered engineer.

Storage areas in conjunction with service areas shall cause an increase in the required volume of the interceptor of one (1) cubic foot capacity per one hundred (100) square feet of storage area, and the corresponding flow rate and storage capacity shall apply. Mechanical car washes shall be served by a sand and gravel interceptor with a minimum seal of six (6) inches, and no outlet from a sand and gravel interceptor shall be discharged to an oil interceptor. Where motor cleaning services are rendered at mechanical car washing facilities, an oil interceptor shall be installed in that section of the drainage system that receives wastewater from the motor cleaning operation. Wash bays where vehicles or equipment are cleaned without the use of moving equipment shall be equipped with a sand interceptor, which shall have an area of four (4) square feet minimum and be a minimum depth of two (2) feet below the invert of the outlet pipe and have a minimum of a six (6) inch seal depth. All such discharge shall be to an approved sanitary sewer, not storm drainage areas or sewers. Private residential users are exempt from wash bay and discharge requirements.

Section 36. Penalties. The penalties for violating the City of Holdrege Plumbing Code are as follows:

First offense	\$100.00 fine
Second offense	\$300.00 fine
Third offense	License revoked with no possibility of plumbing within the jurisdiction of the City of Holdrege.