

Homeowner's
Informational Packet
for New or Remodel
Plumbing Installations



Kentucky Division of Plumbing

www.dhbc.ky.gov/plb

Kentucky State Law, Regulations, and Code

<https://dhbc.ky.gov/Documents/2023%20KSPLRCB.pdf>

or



When is a Permit Required?

Plumbing permits are required for new plumbing installations including water services from the water meter to the home and house sewers from the home to the city sewer tap or septic system. Existing plumbing installations, if a fixture, soil, waste opening, or conductor is to be moved or relocated. All new plumbing installations. Permits are not required for the repair of leaks, cocks, valves, or the cleaning out of waste or sewer pipes.

Useful Links

Homeowner's Permit Registration Website:

<https://dept-hbc-ky.smartgovcommunity.com/Public/Home>

Plumbing Inspectors by County:

<https://dhbc.ky.gov/Documents/Plumbing%20Inspector%20Itinerary.pdf>

Requirements for New or Remodel Plumbing Installations

1. A new plumbing construction permit is required to be purchased online via the [SmartGov online portal](#) or by contacting a [plumbing inspector in your county](#).
2. Homeowner plumbing permits can only be obtained from the homeowner and approved by the inspector if it is for the homeowner's personal residential use. (No rental or short-term rental properties will be approved)
3. When purchasing a plumbing permit, you are required to mark under the "Details" tab if the sewer is going to a municipal or private sewer. A municipal sewer is a sewer that empties into a sewer main, typically maintained by the city or county. A private sewer empties into an on-site sewage disposal system. (Typically, a septic tank)
4. If you are adding a bedroom or bathroom to your existing residence that drains to an on-site sewage disposal system, you are required to meet with the county environmentalist at your local County Health Department to determine if any changes to the system are required.

5. When installing a plumbing drain, waste, and vent system or updating one inside your home, you are required to first bring a blueprint showing the riser diagram and floor plan to the state inspector's office. All pipes must be sized properly.
6. All plumbing work shall be installed following the current Kentucky State Plumbing Law, Regulations, and Code.
7. All work must be performed by the homeowner. You can't hire someone to do the work for you. You are also required to sign, have notarized, and turn in to the local state plumbing inspector, form HBC 31-05, Affidavit of Homeowner, stating that all work will be performed with your own hands.
8. It will be necessary that all plumbing is tested, inspected, and approved by the state plumbing inspector before any work is covered or concealed. This would include all plumbing that is to be concealed under concrete, inside the walls of a home, and installed underground, such as the underground drain, waste, and vent system, and sewer and/or water service piping.
9. To test the underground piping system, (If the pipe is to be covered with concrete.) a water or air test must be performed. To properly test the system, you are required to cap or plug each fixture outlet and any vents. The piping must have a 10-foot riser pipe connected to your system standing full of water or have a five (5) psi air test and be maintained for fifteen (15) minutes.
10. To test the rough-in piping system, you are required to cap or plug in each fixture outlet and any vents through the roof lower than the highest one. A five (5) psi air or water test, maintained for fifteen (15) minutes, may also be used to ensure that all joints are tight.
11. All plumbing tests must be ready and performed before the plumbing inspector's arrival to ensure the system is not leaking and then again in the presence of the state plumbing inspector.
12. After the underground and/or the rough-in test have been inspected and approved all plumbing piping can then be covered and the plumbing fixtures can be installed.
13. After all fixtures are set, a final air test must be performed on the complete plumbing system, except for the sewer. This will require that all vents through the roof and sewer openings in your plumbing system be plugged or capped. You can perform either a bowl test or an air test. A bowl test means you will slowly add one inch of water to the bowl and if the system can maintain this water level for fifteen (15) minutes, it is approved. An air test is typically done utilizing a wine tester where you will insert a small hollow tube through the trap of your water closet. Next, you will blow air in the tube with your mouth and when you feel blowback, insert the hose into the wine tester. If your plumbing

system is airtight and holds the air pressure for 15 minutes, the plumbing system will be approved.

14. If the plumbing system will not hold air for a fifteen (15) minute test without losing any of the air pressure, you will need to find your leak and fix it before you call the plumbing inspector.
15. All labor, materials, and tools needed to conduct a state plumbing inspection test will be furnished by the permit holder. (Homeowner)
16. Hangers on plastic PVC and ABS pipe shall be at intervals not to exceed four (4) feet.
17. All vents less than three (3) inches in diameter must be increased to three (3) inches in size one (1) foot below the roof level before passing through the roof.
18. All water pipes must have a water or air test before being concealed and must be found without leaks under normal working pressure in which the system will function.
19. Water lines must not be less than three-fourths (3/4) inch to the water heater and the first outlet. Water lines one-half (1/2) inch cannot supply (or connect to) more than three plumbing fixtures.
20. Hangers for copper pipe shall not exceed six (6) feet apart and for CPVC shall not exceed three (3) feet apart. PEX pipe hangers shall not exceed thirty-two (32) inches apart. If a copper pipe is used for a water distribution system, the solder must be lead-free.

The contents of this brochure are for informational purposes only about Kentucky law governing the installation of residential irrigation systems. The Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet; Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction, and Division of Plumbing make no warranty that the information provided is accurate or timely. Consumers are advised to seek professional advice rather than relying solely on the instructions provided in this brochure. The Cabinet/Department/Division assumes no responsibility and accepts no liability for any damage suffered due to an individual's reliance on the information contained herein. Consumers are cautioned to read the contents carefully and utilize the information provided at their own risk.