

Homeowner's Informational Packet for a Water Heater



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, or 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 Installing a Water Heater

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. Every water heater must be properly connected to both hot and cold water.
5. A main supply control valve must be installed within three (3) feet and placed on the accessible side of the heater.
6. PEX, CPVC, and copper are the most used materials in the plumbing trade that are approved for water distribution.
7. The joint between ferrous piping and copper or copper-alloy piping shall be made with a dielectric fitting or other insulating fitting to prevent electrolysis.

8. If a flexible connector is utilized to make the final water connection, the connector must have ASME A112.18.6 approval stamped/placed on the connector, label, or box.
9. The shutoff valve shall be placed within three (3) feet of the water heater and be accessible from the accessible side of the water heater.
10. If a single check valve is installed with your water meter or service, a properly sized thermal expansion tank shall be pressurized to the proper setting and installed on the cold water supply line near the water heater.
11. All water heaters shall be installed and accessible for service, inspection, and repair.
12. A home built after September 1, 2006, shall have a crawl space with adequate access of five (5) feet of vertical distance and be installed with a two (2) inch thick corrosion-resistant material adequate to support the water heater.
13. A water heater installed in an attic, above a drop ceiling, or on wood flooring in the occupied space of the building shall be installed with a corrosion-resistant watertight pan below the water heater.
14. The drain from the pan shall be a minimum of one (1) inch and made of material suitable for hot water if the relief discharge is piped to the pan.
15. A temperature and pressure relief device shall be installed not more than three (3) inches from the top of the water heater and shall be installed according to the manufacturer's recommendation.
16. In a location with a floor drain, the discharge from the relief device shall be piped to within two (2) inches of the floor.
17. The relief device may discharge through an air gap to a sump basin, service sink, floor drain, etc., or other point of discharge in which equivalent safety shall be provided.
18. In a location without a floor drain, the discharge from the relief device shall be piped to within four (4) inches of the surface of the ground.
19. If the relief discharge is piped to the outside, and is made of PEX or CPVC, the piping shall be covered to protect it from ultraviolet light.
20. A fuel-fired water heater shall be connected to a flue or a chimney, and the flue piping must be sized at least as large as required by the manufacturer's instructions.

21. A fuel fire water heater must extend two (2) feet above the roof and not terminate within six (6) feet of any door or window.
22. A fuel-fired water heater shall not be placed in any bathroom, toilet room, or room used for sleeping unless it has a direct vent or through the wall vent system.
23. A fuel-fired water heater shall not be replaced in a closed room or closet unless the space has a louver door or is ventilated to provide combustion air and circulation and satisfies the requirements of the National Fuel Gas Code in Chapter 35 of the Kentucky Building Code.
24. Flue pipe and fittings must be held together with screws and NOT tape. Three (3) screws for three (3) inch piping and four (4) screws for four (4) inch piping. Draft hoods are to be secured to the water heater as well.
25. A vent connector from a fuel-fired water heater shall be installed without any dips or sags and shall slope upward toward the vent or chimney at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch per foot.
26. The maximum horizontal length of a single-wall connector shall be 75% of the height of the chimney or vent.

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.