

COMMON PLUMBING PROCESSES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. In drainage design, fixture units are used to determine which two aspects of the system?**
 - A. Pipe size and venting requirements
 - B. Water pressure and pipe material
 - C. Number of cleanouts and slope
 - D. Temperature control and insulation
- 2. Which statement best describes screwdrivers for slotted screws?**
 - A. Use a Phillips screwdriver on slotted screws.
 - B. Keep flat ended screwdrivers for slotted screws to a uniform thickness.
 - C. Use a damaged screwdriver handle.
 - D. Hammer the screwdriver to seat the screw.
- 3. Vent sizing for a multi-story building is influenced by several factors. Which of the following best reflects those factors?**
 - A. Only the number of fixtures.
 - B. Trap sizes and soil load.
 - C. Number of fixtures, trap sizes, soil and waste load, and code tables for vent sizing.
 - D. Code tables alone.
- 4. When using a power saw, keep guard in place.**
 - A. Keep the blade unguarded.
 - B. Wear safety glasses.
 - C. Make sure guard is in place.
 - D. Cut with your eyes closed.
- 5. Which maintenance action is recommended for pipe cutters?**
 - A. Replace damaged or blunt cutter wheels and use the correct blade for the material being cut.
 - B. Lubricate the wheel and rollers to keep them moving freely.
 - C. Use the pipe cutter to de-burr the inside of the pipework.
 - D. Always use two blades on the cutter.

- 6. Why is it important to call before you dig and locate buried utilities before trenching for underground pipes?**
- A. To obtain free soil samples.
 - B. To speed up the trenching process.
 - C. To satisfy a random inspection.
 - D. To avoid damaging buried utilities and ensure safety and compliance.
- 7. Compared to elbow fittings, bending pipe produces bends with what characteristic?**
- A. Smaller Radius
 - B. No Difference
 - C. Larger Radius
 - D. Longer Radius
- 8. Which color is not used for underground pipework colour coding described?**
- A. Blue
 - B. Yellow
 - C. White
 - D. Purple
- 9. Which action reflects proper attention to supporting pipework?**
- A. Explain the requirements for supporting pipework
 - B. Ignore weight when fixing
 - C. Support only at joints
 - D. Use clamps without spacing
- 10. What slope is required for proper drainage in most DWV systems?**
- A. 1/8 inch per foot (1% slope)
 - B. 1/2 inch per foot (4% slope)
 - C. 1/4 inch per foot (2% slope)
 - D. 1 inch per foot (8% slope)

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. C

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Explanations

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1. In drainage design, fixture units are used to determine which two aspects of the system?

- A. Pipe size and venting requirements**
- B. Water pressure and pipe material
- C. Number of cleanouts and slope
- D. Temperature control and insulation

Fixture units quantify the expected wastewater flow from each fixture, and that total guides how the drainage system is sized. When you add up the fixture units on a particular branch, you determine the appropriate pipe size to carry that flow without excessive friction or risk of blockage. The same total also informs venting requirements, because adequate venting must be provided to prevent traps from being siphoned and to allow air to equalize as waste drains. In short, fixture units connect the anticipated load to both the required pipe diameter and the necessary venting. Water pressure and pipe material are part of the supply and construction choices, not the drainage load. The number of cleanouts and the slope, while related to proper drainage, are governed more by accessibility and code-driven guidelines rather than the fixture-unit load. Temperature control and insulation relate to building envelope and environmental considerations, not drainage sizing.

2. Which statement best describes screwdrivers for slotted screws?

- A. Use a Phillips screwdriver on slotted screws.
- B. Keep flat ended screwdrivers for slotted screws to a uniform thickness.**
- C. Use a damaged screwdriver handle.
- D. Hammer the screwdriver to seat the screw.

For slotted screws, use a flat-headed screwdriver whose blade is a good fit for the slot and remains straight and uniform in thickness. This ensures the blade seats fully in the groove and makes even contact with both sides of the slot, giving you solid torque and reducing the chance of cam-out or rounding the screw head. A blade that isn't the right width or isn't uniformly thick can wander, slip, or strip the slot, making the job harder and risking damage. Using a Phillips screwdriver on a slotted screw won't seat properly because the cross-shaped tip won't align with a straight slot, which leads to slipping and damage. A damaged screwdriver handle or hammering the screwdriver are unsafe and reduce control, increasing the risk of injury or damage. The best practice is a matching flat blade with uniform thickness kept in good condition, used with steady downward pressure and clean alignment.

3. Vent sizing for a multi-story building is influenced by several factors. Which of the following best reflects those factors?

- A. Only the number of fixtures.
- B. Trap sizes and soil load.
- C. Number of fixtures, trap sizes, soil and waste load, and code tables for vent sizing.**
- D. Code tables alone.

Vent sizing must account for how much air the drainage system needs to relieve and how difficult it is to prevent siphonage throughout the building. The total number of fixtures determines the overall air and flow load the vent must handle. Trap sizes matter because larger traps can hold more water and create greater potential for pressure changes that affect vent performance. Soil and waste load describes the pressure and flow characteristics of the waste and soil stacks, especially in multi-story buildings where vertical lift increases the challenge to vent effectively. Code tables provide the standardized guidance to translate all these factors into an appropriate vent diameter, ensuring the design meets code requirements and works in practice. So the best option reflects all of these elements together. Relying only on the number of fixtures misses the other important influences; focusing only on trap sizes and soil load ignores the overall fixture demand and the code-based guidance; using code tables alone neglects the actual system characteristics that those tables are based on.

4. When using a power saw, keep guard in place.

- A. Keep the blade unguarded.
- B. Wear safety glasses.
- C. Make sure guard is in place.**
- D. Cut with your eyes closed.

Protecting your hands and fingers is the primary safety goal with a power saw, and the blade guard is the main shield that does this. Keeping the guard in place ensures that, when the saw is idle, the blade is covered so you're not touching an exposed edge. As you start a cut, the guard automatically retracts to let the blade move, and then it slides back to cover the blade again as you finish. If the guard is left off or out of place, there's a direct risk of contact with the spinning blade, which can lead to severe injuries. Safety glasses matter for eye protection, but they don't prevent contact with the blade. They're an important supplement, not a substitute for the guard. Cutting with your eyes closed defeats the purpose of eye protection and removes your ability to guide the cut safely, creating a high danger of hitting a misalignment, the blade, or a nearby obstruction. Always verify the guard operates smoothly and returns to position after each cut. If the guard is damaged or won't stay in place, don't use the saw until it's repaired.

5. Which maintenance action is recommended for pipe cutters?

- A. Replace damaged or blunt cutter wheels and use the correct blade for the material being cut.**
- B. Lubricate the wheel and rollers to keep them moving freely.
- C. Use the pipe cutter to de-burr the inside of the pipework.
- D. Always use two blades on the cutter.

Maintenance of a pipe cutter centers on keeping the cutting edge sharp and matched to the pipe material. A damaged or blunt wheel cannot score the pipe cleanly, causing pinching, wandering, or rough edges and burrs. Replacing a damaged or blunt wheel restores the tool's ability to bite cleanly and produces a true, square cut. Using the correct blade for the material is essential because different pipes require different blade hardness and geometry; a blade suited for soft plastic won't cut hard steel cleanly and can chip or gouge the pipe. This proper blade choice also reduces wear on the cutter and helps maintain a smooth cut. Lubricating the wheel isn't a standard practice and can attract dirt; deburring after cutting is a separate step done with a deburring tool, not a maintenance action for the cutter itself; and having two blades on a cutter isn't how these tools are designed to operate.

6. Why is it important to call before you dig and locate buried utilities before trenching for underground pipes?

- A. To obtain free soil samples.
- B. To speed up the trenching process.**
- C. To satisfy a random inspection.
- D. To avoid damaging buried utilities and ensure safety and compliance.

Preventing harm and staying compliant by locating buried utilities before trenching is essential. When you call to have utilities located, you map out where gas, electric, water, sewer, and communication lines run. This lets you plan the dig so you don't cut into or collapse those lines, which can cause gas leaks and fires, electrical shocks, service outages, or water contamination. It also helps you meet legal requirements and utility company rules, reducing the risk of fines or delays and ensuring a safer worksite for everyone involved. After lines are marked, you can adjust the trench route and use appropriate techniques—such as hand digging or pressure vacuum excavation near marked areas—to maintain safe clearances. The goal is safety and regulatory compliance, not speeding up work or collecting soil samples, or satisfying an inspection.

7. Compared to elbow fittings, bending pipe produces bends with what characteristic?

- A. Smaller Radius
- B. No Difference
- C. Larger Radius**
- D. Longer Radius

When you bend pipe, you create a curve with a centerline radius that's typically larger than the radius of a standard elbow. Elbows are fixed fittings with a relatively tight, specific radius to fit standard spacing and fittings. Bending on a tool or with a bender yields a long-radius bend, a gentler arc that follows a larger radius. This larger radius reduces stress on the pipe, lowers the risk of thinning or kinking, and improves flow by avoiding a sharp direction change. So the bend produced by bending pipe has a larger radius than an elbow.

8. Which color is not used for underground pipework colour coding described?

- A. Blue
- B. Yellow
- C. White
- D. Purple**

Underground pipe color coding helps you identify what a buried line carries just by its color. In the scheme described, blue marks potable water, yellow marks gas lines, and white marks other underground services. Purple isn't part of that basic set; it's commonly used to signify reclaimed or non-potable water in many standards, not the standard buried-service piping colors listed here. Because of that potential for confusion, purple doesn't fit the described color coding, so it's not used.

9. Which action reflects proper attention to supporting pipework?

- A. Explain the requirements for supporting pipework**
- B. Ignore weight when fixing
- C. Support only at joints
- D. Use clamps without spacing

Proper attention to supporting pipework starts with understanding and outlining the requirements for how pipework should be supported. When you explain the requirements, you're planning ahead: you're considering the pipe's weight (dead load), the weight of the fluid inside (live load), thermal expansion and contraction, potential movement due to vibrations, and any code or manufacturer guidelines. This proactive understanding guides you to choose appropriate supports, correct spacing, and the right materials and methods for the specific pipe size and environment, leading to a safe, durable installation. If you ignore weight, you risk underestimating the load the supports must carry, which can lead to sagging, sagging can stress joints or cause leaks. Supporting only at joints leaves long spans unsupported, allowing movement and deformation along the length. Using clamps without proper spacing can fail to control movement and cause uneven support or damage over time. Explaining the requirements, instead, ensures you plan a correct, compliant support system before fixing anything.

10. What slope is required for proper drainage in most DWV systems?

- A. 1/8 inch per foot (1% slope)
- B. 1/2 inch per foot (4% slope)
- C. 1/4 inch per foot (2% slope)**
- D. 1 inch per foot (8% slope)

In DWV systems, waste moves by gravity, so giving the pipe a small downward slope is essential to keep the flow moving and prevent solids from settling and causing clogs. The typical minimum slope used for most residential drain-waste-vent lines is one quarter inch per foot, which is about a 2% slope. This amount of drop over a run provides enough velocity to carry solids and flush the line without creating so steep a fall that traps or venting problems occur. For example, an 8-foot run would need about 2 inches of total drop to maintain that slope. Slopes that are too shallow (like one-eighth inch per foot) can lead to standing water and buildup, while slopes that are much steeper (like one-half inch or more per foot) can cause rapid flow that can siphon traps or cause other venting issues. So the one-quarter inch per foot minimum strikes a balance that works for most DWV installations.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://commonplumbingprocesses.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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