

Illinois Plumbing Code Practice (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

- 1. How high above the overflow rim of the bowl should the activating handle button or mechanism of the flush valve be placed?**
 - A. 6 inches, 40 inches**
 - B. 8 inches, 48 inches**
 - C. 10 inches, 44 inches**
 - D. 12 inches, 36 inches**
- 2. How large should the minimum drain for laundry washer boxes be according to Illinois Plumbing Code?**
 - A. 1 inch**
 - B. 1 1/2 inches**
 - C. 2 inches**
 - D. 2 1/2 inches**
- 3. How is reclaimed water typically utilized in plumbing systems?**
 - A. For drinking and cooking**
 - B. For landscaping and irrigation**
 - C. For heating systems**
 - D. For wastewater treatment only**
- 4. What is the maximum length for a vent pipe according to the Illinois Plumbing Code?**
 - A. 50 feet without a cleanout**
 - B. 100 feet without a cleanout**
 - C. 75 feet with a cleanout**
 - D. 25 feet without a cleanout**
- 5. Which of the following is a standard requirement for public toilets?**
 - A. Accessibility for people with disabilities**
 - B. Additional stalls for every 20 occupants**
 - C. Ventilation system in every toilet**
 - D. Waterless flushing systems in public areas**

- 6. What document must a plumbing contractor obtain before beginning work?**
- A. A business license**
 - B. A building permit**
 - C. A plumbing permit**
 - D. An inspection form**
- 7. Unions shall be installed in a water supply system within ____ feet of regulating equipment, water heaters, water conditioning tanks, water conditioning equipment, pumps, and similar equipment which may require service by removal or replacement. Where small equipment may be unscrewed, only ____ union/s shall be required.**
- A. 3, 1**
 - B. 5, 1**
 - C. 7, 2**
 - D. 10, 2**
- 8. How many inches should the air gap at the water supply inlet to potable water supply tanks be?**
- A. 4 6**
 - B. 6 4**
 - C. 6 8**
 - D. 8 6**
- 9. What is the required rinse water temperature for commercial dishwashing machines that rely on hot water for sanitizing as per Illinois Plumbing Code?**
- A. 140 degrees Fahrenheit**
 - B. 160 degrees Fahrenheit**
 - C. 180 degrees Fahrenheit**
 - D. 200 degrees Fahrenheit**

10. What should be done when encountering a plumbing code violation?

- A. It should be ignored**
- B. It must be corrected immediately to meet code compliance**
- C. It can be reported at a later date**
- D. It should be discussed with other contractors first**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How high above the overflow rim of the bowl should the activating handle button or mechanism of the flush valve be placed?

- A. 6 inches, 40 inches**
- B. 8 inches, 48 inches**
- C. 10 inches, 44 inches**
- D. 12 inches, 36 inches**

The activating handle button or mechanism of the flush valve should be placed 10 inches above the overflow rim of the bowl. This is the correct height according to the Illinois Plumbing Code. Placing it at this height ensures proper functionality of the flush valve and makes it easily accessible for users. Options A, B, and D are incorrect as they do not align with the standard height requirement specified in the Illinois Plumbing Code.

2. How large should the minimum drain for laundry washer boxes be according to Illinois Plumbing Code?

- A. 1 inch**
- B. 1 1/2 inches**
- C. 2 inches**
- D. 2 1/2 inches**

According to the Illinois Plumbing Code, the minimum drain size for laundry washer boxes is specified to be 2 inches. This size is essential to adequately handle the discharge from washing machines, which can produce significant wastewater during cycles. A 2-inch drain allows for sufficient flow to prevent clogs, manage the volume of water effectively, and promote proper drainage. Larger drain sizes help to minimize the risk of overflows and ensure that the system can accommodate peak flow rates during operation. The choice of a 2-inch drain is a standard requirement in many plumbing codes, reflecting best practices for plumbing installations. Adhering to this specification not only helps to maintain the functionality of the drainage system but also supports overall hygiene and safety within the plumbing system by reducing the frequency of backups and odors associated with inadequate drainage.

3. How is reclaimed water typically utilized in plumbing systems?

- A. For drinking and cooking**
- B. For landscaping and irrigation**
- C. For heating systems**
- D. For wastewater treatment only**

Reclaimed water is typically utilized in plumbing systems primarily for landscaping and irrigation. This practice takes advantage of the treated wastewater, which can be safely used for non-potable purposes. Utilizing reclaimed water for irrigation helps conserve freshwater supplies and reduces the strain on potable water systems, especially in areas prone to drought or water scarcity. Using reclaimed water for landscaping and irrigation is beneficial because it can effectively support plant growth while also ensuring that freshwater resources are preserved for more critical uses, such as drinking and sanitation. This non-potable application is specifically designed to be environmentally sustainable and economically viable, reflecting a growing trend in water resource management. Other options do not align with the typical applications of reclaimed water. For instance, using reclaimed water for drinking and cooking is not safe due to health concerns associated with potential contaminants. Similarly, while theoretically feasible, using it in heating systems would not be practical due to the need for high-quality water to prevent damage to plumbing and boiler systems. Lastly, while reclaimed water plays a role in the wastewater treatment process, its primary application is not limited to this function, as it is intended for reuse in various applications.

4. What is the maximum length for a vent pipe according to the Illinois Plumbing Code?

- A. 50 feet without a cleanout**
- B. 100 feet without a cleanout**
- C. 75 feet with a cleanout**
- D. 25 feet without a cleanout**

The maximum length for a vent pipe according to the Illinois Plumbing Code is 50 feet without a cleanout. This specification is essential as it helps maintain proper ventilation and drainage within a plumbing system. A vent pipe serves the critical role of allowing air to enter the plumbing system, which helps equalize pressure and ensures that wastewater can flow freely. If a vent pipe exceeds this length, the potential for blockages and pressure imbalances increases, which could lead to drainage issues or backpressure. The requirement for a cleanout is intended to provide access for maintenance and troubleshooting, ensuring the system can be kept clear and functioning properly. Thus, when a vent pipe is designed to exceed 50 feet, it should include a cleanout to assist in maintaining its effectiveness. This careful consideration of vent pipe length and accompanying provisions is instrumental for compliance with safety and operational efficiency standards in plumbing installations.

5. Which of the following is a standard requirement for public toilets?

- A. Accessibility for people with disabilities**
- B. Additional stalls for every 20 occupants**
- C. Ventilation system in every toilet**
- D. Waterless flushing systems in public areas**

A standard requirement for public toilets includes ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities. This is in line with regulations such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as the Illinois Accessibility Code, which mandate that public facilities provide appropriate access to all individuals, regardless of their physical abilities. This involves specific design features like accessible stalls, proper signage, and other accommodations that allow people with disabilities to use the facilities comfortably and safely. The other choices relate to specific features or considerations that may not universally apply to all public toilet facilities. For instance, the requirement for additional stalls based on occupancy can vary based on local codes and ordinances and is not a blanket requirement. Similarly, ventilation systems in every toilet may not be a strict requirement depending on the design and layout of the incoming plumbing system and existing ventilation requirements in the building codes. Waterless flushing systems, while an innovative option in some green building designs, are not a standard requirement for public toilets under Illinois Plumbing Code practice. Hence, accessibility remains the fundamental and consistent mandate that directly addresses the needs of all users.

6. What document must a plumbing contractor obtain before beginning work?

- A. A business license**
- B. A building permit**
- C. A plumbing permit**
- D. An inspection form**

Before a plumbing contractor begins work, they must obtain a plumbing permit. This permit is essential because it ensures that all plumbing work complies with local codes and regulations. The plumbing permit verifies that the plans for the work have been reviewed by the appropriate authority and ensures that inspections will be carried out at various stages of the work to ensure safety and compliance. The plumbing permit serves as a safeguard for both the contractor and the property owner, ensuring that installations meet safety standards and function correctly. It also provides a record of the work performed, which can be beneficial for future property sales or inspections. While other documents, like a business license or building permit, may be needed for various construction or business activities, they do not specifically address the compliance and safety requirements unique to plumbing work, which makes obtaining a plumbing permit critical for any plumbing contractor.

7. Unions shall be installed in a water supply system within ____ feet of regulating equipment, water heaters, water conditioning tanks, water conditioning equipment, pumps, and similar equipment which may require service by removal or replacement. Where small equipment may be unscrewed, only ____ union/s shall be required.

A. 3, 1

B. 5, 1

C. 7, 2

D. 10, 2

The correct answer is supported by the Illinois Plumbing Code, which stipulates that unions must be installed within 5 feet of regulating equipment, water heaters, water conditioning tanks, water conditioning equipment, pumps, and similar devices. This requirement ensures that maintenance or replacement of these critical components can be performed efficiently and without undue strain on the plumbing system. Additionally, the code specifies that for smaller equipment that can be unscrewed, only one union is needed. This guideline reflects a practical approach to installation and maintenance, facilitating easier access while minimizing the number of unions required for simpler systems. The other options do not align with the specified distances and requirements outlined in the code regarding the placement of unions.

8. How many inches should the air gap at the water supply inlet to potable water supply tanks be?

A. 4 6

B. 6 4

C. 6 8

D. 8 6

The requirement for the air gap at the water supply inlet to potable water supply tanks is specifically set to ensure that there is a safe distance preventing any potential contamination of the potable water supply. In this context, having an air gap of 6 inches is vital because it effectively creates a break in the water supply system that protects against backflow or siphoning, which can lead to contamination. The standard of a 6-inch air gap is widely accepted and is in compliance with plumbing codes, including those outlined in the Illinois Plumbing Code. This requirement serves to maintain the quality and safety of drinking water, as it minimizes the risk of pollutants entering the potable water supply. Other options that indicate either a lesser or greater measurement do not meet the established guidelines necessary for safeguarding drinking water systems.

9. What is the required rinse water temperature for commercial dishwashing machines that rely on hot water for sanitizing as per Illinois Plumbing Code?

- A. 140 degrees Fahrenheit**
- B. 160 degrees Fahrenheit**
- C. 180 degrees Fahrenheit**
- D. 200 degrees Fahrenheit**

The required rinse water temperature for commercial dishwashing machines that rely on hot water for sanitizing as per the Illinois Plumbing Code is 180 degrees Fahrenheit (C). This temperature is necessary to ensure that the dishes are properly sanitized and free from harmful bacteria. Water at this temperature is effective in killing bacteria and other contaminants, making it a crucial requirement for commercial dishwashing operations to maintain high levels of cleanliness and food safety standards. Options A, B, and D are incorrect because they do not meet the specific temperature requirement set by the Illinois Plumbing Code for commercial dishwashing machines. Water temperatures below 180 degrees Fahrenheit may not provide sufficient sanitization, leading to potential health risks related to improperly cleaned dishes.

10. What should be done when encountering a plumbing code violation?

- A. It should be ignored**
- B. It must be corrected immediately to meet code compliance**
- C. It can be reported at a later date**
- D. It should be discussed with other contractors first**

When encountering a plumbing code violation, the situation must be corrected immediately to ensure compliance with the Illinois Plumbing Code. This approach is critical as plumbing codes are established to protect public health, safety, and welfare. By addressing violations promptly, you prevent potential hazards, such as water contamination or structural damage, that could arise from unaddressed issues. Additionally, prompt correction aligns with legal obligations and may help avoid fines or penalties associated with non-compliance. Taking action right away supports maintaining the integrity of the plumbing system and reinforces the importance of adherence to regulatory standards within the profession. It also sets a precedent for maintaining high standards in plumbing practices, thereby safeguarding not only the current projects but also future work and community trust in plumbing systems.

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://illinoisplumbingcode.examzify.com>

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