

# National Plumbing Code of Canada Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is the required pressure range for potable water systems?**
  - A. 150 kPa to 300 kPa**
  - B. 280 kPa to 690 kPa**
  - C. 500 kPa to 800 kPa**
  - D. 100 kPa to 200 kPa**
- 2. What is the primary purpose of the Plumbing Code concerning health and safety?**
  - A. To encourage DIY plumbing projects**
  - B. To prevent plumbing-related injuries and protect public health**
  - C. To increase plumbing installation costs**
  - D. To regulate plumbing aesthetics**
- 3. What is the primary aim of the National Plumbing Code of Canada?**
  - A. To establish minimum standards for plumbing systems to ensure health, safety, and general welfare**
  - B. To set maximum limits on plumbing system costs**
  - C. To standardize plumbing designs in all provinces**
  - D. To promote the use of eco-friendly plumbing materials**
- 4. What is the plumbing code's primary concern regarding fixture installation?**
  - A. To ensure fixtures match in design**
  - B. To ensure proper flow and drainage while minimizing leaks**
  - C. To dictate the materials used for fixtures**
  - D. To establish aesthetic guidelines for installation**
- 5. When is it permissible to use a single sanitary T fitting in a nominally horizontal soil-or-waste pipe?**
  - A. To serve as a trap**
  - B. To connect a vent pipe**
  - C. For connecting multiple outlets**
  - D. For waste line transitions**

- 6. What types of materials are typically prohibited for use in potable water pipes?**
- A. Plastic and PVC**
  - B. Copper and brass**
  - C. Lead and galvanized steel**
  - D. Stainless steel and aluminum**
- 7. What is the significance of labeling plumbing components as per the plumbing code?**
- A. To ensure compliance with building permits**
  - B. To facilitate quick repairs and replacements**
  - C. To ensure easy identification and maintenance**
  - D. To enhance the aesthetic appeal of plumbing systems**
- 8. What is necessary for a back outlet water closet installation using double sanitary T fittings?**
- A. Access for inspection**
  - B. Separation from other fixtures**
  - C. A cleanout fitting above the connection**
  - D. Specific pipe lengths**
- 9. Which plumbing system requires annual inspection according to the code?**
- A. Stormwater drainage systems**
  - B. Gas supply systems**
  - C. Hot water heating systems**
  - D. Sanitary drainage systems**
- 10. What surface requirements must every fixture have?**
- A. A smooth, hard, corrosion-resistant surface free of flaws and blemishes that may interfere with cleaning**
  - B. A textured, soft surface that is easy to grip**
  - C. A porous surface that absorbs moisture**
  - D. A rough and uneven surface to enhance cleaning**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the required pressure range for potable water systems?**

- A. 150 kPa to 300 kPa
- B. 280 kPa to 690 kPa**
- C. 500 kPa to 800 kPa
- D. 100 kPa to 200 kPa

The required pressure range for potable water systems is specified to ensure sufficient water flow and pressure for various uses such as drinking, cooking, and sanitary purposes. The range of 280 kPa to 690 kPa is established to provide an effective and safe delivery of potable water throughout a plumbing system. At pressures below the lower limit of this range, water may not flow adequately to meet demand, especially in multistory buildings where additional pressure is necessary to deliver water to higher floors. Conversely, pressures exceeding the upper limit can lead to potential system failures, leaks, or damage to fixtures due to excessive force on pipes and connections. In many instances, municipalities and health regulations stipulate these pressure ranges to maintain both functionality and safety in water distribution systems. This careful balancing is essential for the health and performance of plumbing installations, ensuring that potable water remains uncontaminated and that systems can deliver water reliably under typical operating conditions.

**2. What is the primary purpose of the Plumbing Code concerning health and safety?**

- A. To encourage DIY plumbing projects
- B. To prevent plumbing-related injuries and protect public health**
- C. To increase plumbing installation costs
- D. To regulate plumbing aesthetics

The primary purpose of the Plumbing Code concerning health and safety is to prevent plumbing-related injuries and protect public health. The code establishes standards that ensure all plumbing systems are designed and installed safely and effectively, helping to prevent issues such as water contamination, flooding, and drainage problems. By adhering to these standards, plumbing systems function as intended, reducing the risk of accidents that could harm individuals or lead to health hazards in the community. The code is based on principles that safeguard the well-being of the public by ensuring that plumbing systems are reliable and hygienic. While DIY plumbing projects may be popular among some individuals, they do not align with the primary intent of the code, which is focused on safety and health through professional standards. Increasing installation costs is not a goal of the code either; rather, it aims to provide guidelines that promote efficient and safe plumbing practices. Lastly, regulating aesthetics is not a function of the Plumbing Code; it is concerned primarily with the performance and safety of plumbing systems rather than their appearance.

**3. What is the primary aim of the National Plumbing Code of Canada?**

- A. To establish minimum standards for plumbing systems to ensure health, safety, and general welfare**
- B. To set maximum limits on plumbing system costs**
- C. To standardize plumbing designs in all provinces**
- D. To promote the use of eco-friendly plumbing materials**

The primary aim of the National Plumbing Code of Canada is to establish minimum standards for plumbing systems to ensure health, safety, and general welfare. This code is designed to protect public health by regulating the design, installation, and maintenance of plumbing systems. By setting these minimum standards, the code helps prevent issues such as water contamination, inadequate drainage, and other plumbing-related hazards that could compromise safety and health. The focus on health and safety is essential in ensuring that plumbing systems function effectively and do not pose risks to occupants or the environment. For instance, proper installation and maintenance of plumbing can prevent leaks that might lead to mold growth or structural damage, and it ensures that drainage systems can handle wastewater in a way that protects public health. Other options, although they may be relevant considerations in the broader context of plumbing, do not encapsulate the primary purpose of the code as effectively as ensuring health, safety, and general welfare. The code does not focus on limiting costs, standardizing designs across provinces, or specifically promoting eco-friendly materials, although these may be beneficial side effects of effective plumbing regulations.

**4. What is the plumbing code's primary concern regarding fixture installation?**

- A. To ensure fixtures match in design**
- B. To ensure proper flow and drainage while minimizing leaks**
- C. To dictate the materials used for fixtures**
- D. To establish aesthetic guidelines for installation**

The plumbing code's primary concern regarding fixture installation is to ensure proper flow and drainage while minimizing leaks. This aspect is crucial because the primary functions of plumbing fixtures—such as sinks, toilets, and showers—rely on their ability to transport water efficiently and manage the drainage of wastewater. Proper installation prevents issues like clogs, backups, and leaks, which can lead to water damage, health problems, and increased maintenance costs. Furthermore, the code provides guidelines on how to install fixtures in a way that supports optimal performance, including the appropriate slopes for drainage pipes, venting requirements to ensure air circulation, and the connection techniques that help prevent leaks. By prioritizing flow and drainage, the plumbing code enhances the overall safety and functionality of plumbing systems, ensuring they operate as intended throughout their lifespan. While aspects such as design consistency, material selection, and aesthetics are important considerations in plumbing, they do not take precedence in the code. The fundamental goals focus on the effective and safe operation of plumbing systems to protect public health and property.

**5. When is it permissible to use a single sanitary T fitting in a nominally horizontal soil-or-waste pipe?**

- A. To serve as a trap**
- B. To connect a vent pipe**
- C. For connecting multiple outlets**
- D. For waste line transitions**

Using a single sanitary T fitting in a nominally horizontal soil or waste pipe is permissible primarily to connect a vent pipe. This configuration allows for proper air venting, which is essential in ensuring that wastewater flows smoothly through the pipes without creating a vacuum that could impede drainage or cause siphoning of traps. In plumbing systems, vent pipes are crucial as they allow for equalization of air pressure within the drainage system, facilitating the proper flow of water and waste. When a sanitary T fitting is installed to connect a vent pipe, it provides a direct pathway for air to enter the drainage system above the water level, helping to maintain the system's efficiency. Other options may relate to various configurations in plumbing systems, but they do not conform to the standards outlined in the National Plumbing Code for the use of a sanitary T in horizontal applications. For instance, using a single sanitary T fitting to serve as a trap or connect multiple outlets is not appropriate, as these applications would require different fittings or configurations to ensure effective wastewater management and avoid complications in drainage or venting. Similarly, for waste line transitions, other specialized fittings are preferred to accommodate the change in direction or diameter safely.

**6. What types of materials are typically prohibited for use in potable water pipes?**

- A. Plastic and PVC**
- B. Copper and brass**
- C. Lead and galvanized steel**
- D. Stainless steel and aluminum**

The use of lead and galvanized steel pipes in potable water systems is generally prohibited due to health and safety concerns. Lead is known to leach into drinking water, posing significant health risks, particularly to young children and pregnant women. This has resulted in strict regulations to eliminate lead from plumbing materials in order to protect public health. Galvanized steel, while historically used, can corrode over time, leading to rust and sediment accumulation in water lines. This corrosion can affect water quality and may also lead to the release of harmful substances. Regulations aim to provide safe and clean drinking water, and as a result, these materials are not suitable for use in systems designed for potable water. In contrast, materials such as plastic, PVC, copper, brass, stainless steel, and aluminum are generally considered acceptable for use in potable water systems when they meet the appropriate standards, as they do not pose similar health risks and can provide reliable performance.

**7. What is the significance of labeling plumbing components as per the plumbing code?**

- A. To ensure compliance with building permits**
- B. To facilitate quick repairs and replacements**
- C. To ensure easy identification and maintenance**
- D. To enhance the aesthetic appeal of plumbing systems**

Labeling plumbing components in accordance with the plumbing code is essential for ensuring easy identification and maintenance. Proper labeling provides clear and immediate access to information regarding the function and specifications of various components, which is critical during routine inspections, repairs, or maintenance tasks. When components are labeled correctly, it minimizes confusion about which parts of the system are affected during troubleshooting and enhances the efficiency of the repair process. For instance, if a plumber needs to locate a shut-off valve or a specific type of pipe, clear labels can save significant time and reduce the likelihood of errors that might arise from misidentification. Additionally, proper identification assists in adhering to important safety and regulatory standards, enabling maintenance personnel to quickly find and address any issues without unnecessary delay. This not only ensures the functionality of the plumbing system but also enhances overall safety and reliability, making it easier for personnel to perform their tasks effectively. While compliance with building permits and quick repairs are important considerations in plumbing, they are not the primary focus of the labeling process itself. Aesthetic appeal, while relevant in some contexts, does not play a role in the functional significance of labeling within plumbing codes. Thus, the emphasis on clear and precise labeling primarily supports identification and maintenance needs within plumbing systems.

**8. What is necessary for a back outlet water closet installation using double sanitary T fittings?**

- A. Access for inspection**
- B. Separation from other fixtures**
- C. A cleanout fitting above the connection**
- D. Specific pipe lengths**

In the context of installing a back outlet water closet with double sanitary T fittings, the inclusion of a cleanout fitting above the connection is essential. This requirement is due to the need for maintaining the plumbing system and ensuring proper accessibility for maintenance and cleaning tasks. A cleanout fitting allows for easy access to the plumbing system to clear blockages or perform inspections, which can be critical, especially in setups that may be susceptible to clogs. The presence of a cleanout fitting ensures that any issues within the drainage line can be addressed without needing to dismantle sections of the piping. This focus on accessibility upholds good plumbing practices, as per the National Plumbing Code of Canada, which advocates for designs that facilitate maintenance and future repairs. Other considerations like access for inspection, separation from other fixtures, and specific pipe lengths may have their importance, but they do not specifically address the immediate functional requirement that a cleanout fitting fulfills in maintaining the integrity and operability of the back outlet installation.

**9. Which plumbing system requires annual inspection according to the code?**

- A. Stormwater drainage systems**
- B. Gas supply systems**
- C. Hot water heating systems**
- D. Sanitary drainage systems**

Hot water heating systems require annual inspection according to the National Plumbing Code of Canada. This requirement is primarily due to the potential risks associated with such systems, including the danger of overheating, pressure build-up, and scaling or corrosion, all of which can lead to system failure or hazards if not properly maintained. Regular inspections help ensure that the system operates efficiently and safely, addressing any issues before they become serious problems. In contrast, while other systems might have maintenance and inspection recommendations, they do not specifically mandate an annual inspection in the same way hot water heating systems do. This distinction highlights the need for regular oversight on systems that involve significant heating and pressure, which can pose greater risks if not properly monitored.

**10. What surface requirements must every fixture have?**

- A. A smooth, hard, corrosion-resistant surface free of flaws and blemishes that may interfere with cleaning**
- B. A textured, soft surface that is easy to grip**
- C. A porous surface that absorbs moisture**
- D. A rough and uneven surface to enhance cleaning**

The correct choice emphasizes the importance of having a fixture with a smooth, hard, corrosion-resistant surface that is free from flaws and blemishes. This requirement is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, a smooth surface facilitates easier cleaning and sanitation, which is vital in preventing the accumulation of bacteria and other contaminants. Touch surfaces in plumbing fixtures must be maintained in a way that ensures health and safety, making the ability to clean effectively fundamental. Moreover, hard surfaces resist damage and wear that can occur over time, ensuring the longevity and reliability of the fixtures. Corrosion resistance is also essential, as plumbing fixtures are often exposed to water and various chemicals, and a corrosion-resistant finish prevents deterioration that could compromise both functionality and hygiene. Flaws or blemishes on a surface can harbor dirt and bacteria, making cleaning difficult and potentially leading to health risks. Other options do not meet the vital criteria for plumbing fixture surfaces. A textured or soft surface may sound appealing for grip, but this can impede thorough cleaning and may not withstand the constant exposure to moisture and cleaning materials as effectively. A porous surface that absorbs moisture is problematic, as it can facilitate mold and bacteria growth. Lastly, a rough and uneven surface complicates cleaning efforts instead of enhancing them, potentially leading to sanitation issues.