

National Plumbing Code of Canada Practice Test (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

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- 1. How does the code define "Fixture Count"?**
 - A. The total number of plumbing fixtures served by the plumbing system**
 - B. The maximum number of connections allowed in a system**
 - C. The number of fixtures that require venting**
 - D. The total gallons of water used annually**

- 2. Under what condition should a clean-out fitting not be installed?**
 - A. If it ensures a gas-tight seal**
 - B. If it withstands physical stresses**
 - C. If it cannot withstand stresses of removal and re-installation**
 - D. If it is made of non-ferrous material**

- 3. Which type of elbows are prohibited for joining sanitary drainage systems of 4" or less?**
 - A. 90 elbows with a centre-line radius greater than the pipe size**
 - B. 90 elbows with a centre-line radius less than the pipe size**
 - C. 45 elbows of any size**
 - D. 90 elbows made of concrete**

- 4. Why is it essential for the floor to be sloped where multiple shower heads are installed?**
 - A. To direct water flow properly**
 - B. For aesthetic appeal**
 - C. To prevent water from pooling**
 - D. To enhance slip resistance**

- 5. What minimum clearance must be maintained around plumbing access points?**
 - A. 300 mm (12 inches)**
 - B. 450 mm (18 inches)**
 - C. 600 mm (24 inches)**
 - D. 900 mm (36 inches)**

- 6. What code requirement is essential for the installation of a water heater?**
- A. Proper insulation always**
 - B. Location within 5 feet of a bathroom**
 - C. Correct venting to maintain safety**
 - D. Type of material for the drain line**
- 7. What is the primary purpose of a cleanout plug in plumbing?**
- A. To maintain air flow**
 - B. For service access to drainage systems**
 - C. To prevent backflow**
 - D. For securing connections**
- 8. What is the purpose of venting in plumbing systems?**
- A. To allow for sewer access**
 - B. To prevent backflow**
 - C. To equalize air pressure in the drainage system**
 - D. To improve aesthetics**
- 9. Why is backflow prevention crucial in plumbing systems?**
- A. To increase water pressure**
 - B. To prevent the contamination of potable water**
 - C. To reduce water usage**
 - D. To improve drainage efficiency**
- 10. What does the abbreviation "UBC" refer to in relation to plumbing standards?**
- A. United Building Code**
 - B. Uniform Building Code**
 - C. Universal Building Code**
 - D. Urban Building Code**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How does the code define “Fixture Count”?

- A. The total number of plumbing fixtures served by the plumbing system**
- B. The maximum number of connections allowed in a system**
- C. The number of fixtures that require venting**
- D. The total gallons of water used annually**

The definition of “Fixture Count” as stated in the National Plumbing Code of Canada refers to the total number of plumbing fixtures served by the plumbing system. This is a critical measure because it provides a basis for determining several key aspects of plumbing design, including the sizing of pipes, venting requirements, and the capacity of other system components. Understanding fixture count is essential for ensuring that the plumbing system is adequately designed to handle the expected usage, thus meeting building requirements and regulations. It serves as a fundamental element for assessing drainage and venting demands within a residential or commercial plumbing system. Each fixture contributes to the overall load that the plumbing system must accommodate, making it paramount for compliance with local codes and for the efficient functioning of the plumbing system. The other choices focus on different aspects of plumbing but do not accurately convey what fixture count specifically entails. For instance, the maximum number of connections refers more to system limits rather than just the quantity of fixtures, while information about venting requirements and water usage pertains to specific operational needs rather than the broad definition of fixture count itself.

2. Under what condition should a clean-out fitting not be installed?

- A. If it ensures a gas-tight seal**
- B. If it withstands physical stresses**
- C. If it cannot withstand stresses of removal and re-installation**
- D. If it is made of non-ferrous material**

A clean-out fitting is an essential component in plumbing systems, designed to allow easy access for maintenance and cleaning of the drainage system. In selecting and installing these fittings, it is important to consider their ability to handle operational and maintenance stresses. The correct condition under which a clean-out fitting should not be installed is when it cannot withstand the stresses of removal and re-installation. This is crucial because clean-outs are frequently used in plumbing systems for maintenance purposes. If a fitting is not durable enough to endure repeated removal, it can lead to leaks, damage to the surrounding plumbing, or even total failure over time. Therefore, ensuring that clean-out fittings are robust and durable is imperative for the reliability and longevity of a plumbing system. While other choices may relate to various properties of clean-out fittings, they do not address the fundamental requirement for durability in repeated use. For instance, ensuring a gas-tight seal or the ability to withstand physical stresses is important, but if the fitting fails to hold up under stress from maintenance operations, it renders those features irrelevant. Likewise, whether the material is non-ferrous is a component of corrosion resistance, impacting longevity but not directly the ability to manage the stresses of being removed and replaced.

- 3. Which type of elbows are prohibited for joining sanitary drainage systems of 4" or less?**
- A. 90 elbows with a centre-line radius greater than the pipe size**
 - B. 90 elbows with a centre-line radius less than the pipe size**
 - C. 45 elbows of any size**
 - D. 90 elbows made of concrete**

When considering the requirements for joining sanitary drainage systems that are 4" or less in diameter, the prohibition of 90-degree elbows with a centre-line radius less than the pipe size is based on the need to maintain optimal flow conditions within the drainage system. Using such elbows can create excessive turbulence and flow resistance. Essentially, a radius that is less than the pipe size can lead to increased risk of blockages and hinder the smooth transfer of wastewater, which is critical for maintaining sanitary conditions. The design of drainage systems aims to minimize sharp turns and abrupt changes in direction, which can significantly impact the efficiency of wastewater removal and result in potential clogs or overflow issues. In contrast, a 90-degree elbow with a centre-line radius greater than the pipe size—being more gradual—allows for a smoother transition that can reduce turbulence and promote better flow characteristics. Similarly, 45-degree elbows generally present less resistance than 90-degree elbows, and concrete elbows, while not as commonly used, have their own design guidelines tailored to specific applications but do not directly relate to the issues concerning radius in this context. Therefore, by prohibiting 90-degree elbows with a tighter radius than the pipe size, the code aims to ensure effective drainage performance and reduce the likelihood

- 4. Why is it essential for the floor to be sloped where multiple shower heads are installed?**
- A. To direct water flow properly**
 - B. For aesthetic appeal**
 - C. To prevent water from pooling**
 - D. To enhance slip resistance**

In environments where multiple shower heads are installed, proper water drainage becomes crucial to maintaining functionality and safety. Sloping the floor helps to direct water towards the drain efficiently. This prevents water from accumulating in areas where it should not be, which can lead to slippery conditions and water damage to the surrounding areas. When the floor is properly sloped, it ensures that water flows away from any fixtures and towards the drainage system without hesitation, effectively managing water flow. While aspects such as aesthetic appeal, preventing pooling, and enhancing slip resistance are relevant to bathroom design and safety, the primary function of sloping the floor is to ensure that water is channeled correctly, which is a fundamental aspect of plumbing design that adheres to the National Plumbing Code of Canada. Proper slope is critical for maintaining a safe and functional shower area, especially when multiple sources of water are involved.

5. What minimum clearance must be maintained around plumbing access points?

- A. 300 mm (12 inches)**
- B. 450 mm (18 inches)**
- C. 600 mm (24 inches)**
- D. 900 mm (36 inches)**

The minimum clearance that must be maintained around plumbing access points is 600 mm (24 inches). This requirement is established to ensure that there is adequate space for both installation and maintenance activities. A clearance of 600 mm allows plumbing professionals to comfortably access valves, fittings, and other necessary components without obstruction. It also aids in meeting safety and operational standards, ensuring that any repairs or inspections can be performed efficiently and effectively. A smaller clearance could hinder the ability to work in those areas, making it more challenging to perform necessary tasks. For example, a 300 mm or 450 mm clearance might not provide sufficient space for tools or for a technician to maneuver during repairs or routine inspections. The 900 mm option, while providing ample space, exceeds the requirement, which is not necessary and could lead to inefficiencies in design and layout planning. Thus, the requirement for 600 mm reflects a balance between accessibility and practicality in plumbing installations.

6. What code requirement is essential for the installation of a water heater?

- A. Proper insulation always**
- B. Location within 5 feet of a bathroom**
- C. Correct venting to maintain safety**
- D. Type of material for the drain line**

For the installation of a water heater, correct venting is crucial to ensure safety. Water heaters, especially those that are gas-powered, produce combustion gases that must be safely expelled from the unit to prevent the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning and other hazardous conditions. Proper venting systems are designed to safely channel these gases outdoors and must comply with specific guidelines outlined in plumbing codes. Using the correct materials and methods for venting not only enhances safety by minimizing the risk of gas leaks or backdrafts but also ensures that the water heater operates efficiently. Inadequate or incorrect venting can lead to serious safety hazards, including the potential for fires or the failure of the appliance. Thus, following the code requirements for venting is essential in the water heater installation process.

7. What is the primary purpose of a cleanout plug in plumbing?

- A. To maintain air flow**
- B. For service access to drainage systems**
- C. To prevent backflow**
- D. For securing connections**

The primary purpose of a cleanout plug in plumbing is to provide service access to drainage systems. Cleanouts are strategic access points within plumbing systems that allow for the cleaning and maintenance of horizontal drain lines. By providing a way to remove blockages or to inspect the system, cleanouts are crucial for maintaining the proper operation of drainage systems. Cleanout plugs are typically located at various intervals within a drainage system, particularly at bends or angles where clogs may be more likely to develop. This accessibility makes it easier for plumbers to effectively clear obstructions without needing to dismantle large sections of the plumbing system, which can be time-consuming and labor-intensive. While maintaining airflow, preventing backflow, and securing connections are all important aspects of plumbing systems, they are not the primary function of cleanout plugs. Cleanout plugs specifically address the need for maintenance and serviceability within the drainage infrastructure, ensuring that systems remain effective and reducing the potential for more significant plumbing issues.

8. What is the purpose of venting in plumbing systems?

- A. To allow for sewer access**
- B. To prevent backflow**
- C. To equalize air pressure in the drainage system**
- D. To improve aesthetics**

Venting in plumbing systems serves a crucial role by equalizing air pressure within the drainage system. When wastewater flows through pipes, it creates a vacuum or negative pressure that can impede the smooth flow of water. Venting allows air to enter the system, which helps maintain atmospheric pressure and ensures that wastewater can flow freely. This process is vital for preventing traps from being siphoned dry, which could lead to sewer gases escaping into living spaces and thus, maintaining a healthy environment. In contrast, while access for sewer maintenance and prevention of backflow are important aspects of plumbing, they are not the primary function of venting. Additionally, aesthetics, while sometimes a factor in the design and visibility of plumbing systems, does not relate to the function of venting at all. Hence, the role of venting in equalizing air pressure is not only fundamental to the effective operation of the drainage system but also essential for health and safety within building environments.

9. Why is backflow prevention crucial in plumbing systems?

- A. To increase water pressure
- B. To prevent the contamination of potable water**
- C. To reduce water usage
- D. To improve drainage efficiency

Backflow prevention is an essential component in plumbing systems primarily because it serves to prevent the contamination of potable water. In plumbing, backflow refers to the undesired reversal of water flow, which can occur due to various factors such as changes in pressure within the system. This reversal can allow contaminants from non-potable sources, such as sewage or industrial waste, to flow back into the clean water supply. By implementing effective backflow prevention measures, such as valves and devices designed specifically for this purpose, plumbing systems ensure that the drinking water remains safe and free from harmful contaminants. This is particularly important in public health, as any contamination could pose a significant risk to individuals using the water for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. While increasing water pressure, reducing water usage, and improving drainage efficiency are all important aspects of plumbing systems, they do not directly address the critical issue of protecting the potability of water. Thus, the primary rationale behind backflow prevention is to safeguard the quality of drinking water, which underscores its significance in plumbing practices.

10. What does the abbreviation "UBC" refer to in relation to plumbing standards?

- A. United Building Code
- B. Uniform Building Code**
- C. Universal Building Code
- D. Urban Building Code

The abbreviation "UBC" stands for the Uniform Building Code. This code serves as a model building code that provides guidelines and standards for construction, ensuring consistency and safety across various jurisdictions. It covers a wide range of topics related to building practices, including structural integrity, plumbing systems, and safety measures. The UBC is significant in the plumbing domain as it influences how plumbing systems are designed, installed, and maintained, ensuring compliance with safety regulations that protect public health. By establishing uniform standards, the UBC helps streamline construction processes and promotes best practices within the plumbing industry. Understanding this code is essential for plumbing professionals, as adherence to its guidelines is necessary to ensure that both new constructions and renovations meet the required standards for safety and efficiency.

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://natlplumbingcodecanada.examzify.com>

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

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