

# New York City Master Plumbers Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

**Copyright** ..... 1

**Table of Contents** ..... 2

**Introduction** ..... 3

**How to Use This Guide** ..... 4

**Questions** ..... 5

**Answers** ..... 8

**Explanations** ..... 10

**Next Steps** ..... 16

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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. What is the primary purpose of a radon vent pipe?**
  - A. To vent sewage odors**
  - B. To prevent radon gas accumulation**
  - C. To provide drainage**
  - D. To ensure water flow**
  
- 2. What is one requirement when installing new plumbing fixtures?**
  - A. Fixtures must be the same brand**
  - B. Compliance with local codes**
  - C. Prior approval from a landlord**
  - D. Special training for installation**
  
- 3. A combustible gas which may be present in sewer air and is explosive in the presence of oxygen is?**
  - A. Amonia**
  - B. Carbon Dioxide**
  - C. Methane**
  - D. Hydrogen-Sulfide**
  
- 4. What is the maximum number of fixtures allowed on a single vent according to NYC regulations?**
  - A. 15 fixtures**
  - B. 10 fixtures**
  - C. 20 fixtures**
  - D. 25 fixtures**
  
- 5. What is considered a fixture unit in plumbing?**
  - A. A measure of the water temperature**
  - B. A measure of the probable demand on the plumbing system from a given fixture**
  - C. A measure of the total volume of water**
  - D. A measure of pipe diameter**

- 6. What percentage of antimony by weight must a lead floor flange contain?**
- A. 5.75%**
  - B. 6.25%**
  - C. 7.75%**
  - D. 8.50%**
- 7. What is the purpose of a vent stack in plumbing systems?**
- A. To collect excess water**
  - B. To maintain air pressure in the drainage system and prevent sewer gas from entering buildings**
  - C. To reduce water flow**
  - D. To filter contaminants**
- 8. What is the minimum water head that shall be applied to drainage systems during testing?**
- A. 5 feet**
  - B. 10 feet**
  - C. 15 feet**
  - D. 20 feet**
- 9. What is the maximum height allowed for a plumbing vent above the roof?**
- A. 1 foot**
  - B. 2 feet**
  - C. 3 feet**
  - D. 4 feet**
- 10. What is the drainage requirement for an island sink?**
- A. It must have direct waste connection**
  - B. It must have an indirect waste connection and a vent**
  - C. It can drain through the main stack**
  - D. No specific drainage is required**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is the primary purpose of a radon vent pipe?

- A. To vent sewage odors
- B. To prevent radon gas accumulation**
- C. To provide drainage
- D. To ensure water flow

The primary purpose of a radon vent pipe is to prevent radon gas accumulation. Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that can seep into buildings from the ground, particularly in areas where there is uranium in the soil. This gas can accumulate at dangerous levels, posing health risks such as lung cancer when inhaled over time. The radon vent pipe is part of a radon mitigation system that helps to redirect and expel radon gas from beneath the building to the outside atmosphere, thereby reducing the concentration of radon inside the home or building. By creating a path for the gas to escape, the vent pipe effectively lowers the potential of radon buildup, making indoor environments safer for occupants. This function is crucial, especially in regions known for high radon levels, ensuring that public health is prioritized in residential and commercial construction and renovation.

## 2. What is one requirement when installing new plumbing fixtures?

- A. Fixtures must be the same brand
- B. Compliance with local codes**
- C. Prior approval from a landlord
- D. Special training for installation

When installing new plumbing fixtures, compliance with local codes is a critical requirement. Local plumbing codes are established to ensure that installations are safe, meet health standards, and function effectively. These codes incorporate standards for materials, installation practices, and even the specifics of the plumbing system itself to minimize risks associated with leaks, contamination, or structural damage. Following these regulations not only safeguards public health and safety but also protects the property owner from potential legal issues and financial liability. Adhering to local codes means that the installation is up to standard and is likely to pass inspections, which can be mandatory in many areas. Other considerations, such as using the same brand of fixtures or obtaining prior approval from a landlord might be relevant in certain contexts but are not universal requirements for all plumbing fixture installations. Similarly, while special training can be beneficial for complex installations, basic plumbing fixture installation typically falls within the capabilities of licensed plumbers without the necessity of additional specific training beyond what is already required for licensure. Compliance with local codes remains the cornerstone of any plumbing work to ensure legality and safety.

**3. A combustible gas which may be present in sewer air and is explosive in the presence of oxygen is?**

- A. Amonia**
- B. Carbon Dioxide**
- C. Methane**
- D. Hydrogen-Sulfide**

The correct answer to this question is methane. Methane is a colorless, odorless gas that is a major component of natural gas, and it can accumulate in sewer systems as a byproduct of the breakdown of organic matter. When methane is present in air and is mixed with oxygen in certain proportions, it can form an explosive mixture. This makes it particularly dangerous in enclosed spaces like sewers, where gas can accumulate without proper ventilation. Ammonia, while it can be present in sewer air, is not considered explosive in typical concentrations. Carbon dioxide, although it can be hazardous in high concentrations, is not explosive nor does it support combustion. Hydrogen sulfide is indeed a toxic gas found in sewers, but it is not typically classified as explosive in the same sense as methane. Therefore, methane is the gas that poses an explosive risk in the presence of oxygen within the context of sewer systems.

**4. What is the maximum number of fixtures allowed on a single vent according to NYC regulations?**

- A. 15 fixtures**
- B. 10 fixtures**
- C. 20 fixtures**
- D. 25 fixtures**

The maximum number of fixtures allowed on a single vent according to NYC regulations is set at 20 fixtures. This regulation is crucial for ensuring proper ventilation and drainage in plumbing systems. A single vent that accommodates up to 20 fixtures helps to maintain optimal air flow and pressure within the system, preventing issues like siphoning or back pressure that could lead to drainage problems. This limit is established based on engineering principles that consider the size and type of vent piping needed to effectively handle the expected volume of waste and to ensure that gases are vented safely and efficiently. Ensuring that the number of fixtures does not exceed this cap aids in maintaining the overall integrity and effectiveness of the plumbing system, thereby complying with safety standards.

**5. What is considered a fixture unit in plumbing?**

- A. A measure of the water temperature
- B. A measure of the probable demand on the plumbing system from a given fixture**
- C. A measure of the total volume of water
- D. A measure of pipe diameter

A fixture unit in plumbing is defined as a measure of the probable demand on the plumbing system from a given fixture. This concept helps to quantify the impact that various fixtures, such as sinks, toilets, and bathtubs, have on the overall plumbing system. Each type of fixture is assigned a certain number of fixture units based on its anticipated water usage and flow characteristics during peak demand. This measure is crucial for plumbing design, as it allows engineers and plumbers to ensure that the system can adequately supply water to all fixtures without experiencing pressure drops or failures. By calculating the total fixture units for all fixtures in a system, plumbing professionals can determine the appropriate pipe sizes, water supply lines, and drainage systems needed to accommodate the expected flow. Factors such as the frequency of use, the flow rate of the fixtures, and the overall demand at peak times contribute to the assigned fixture unit value, which ultimately informs the design and sizing of the plumbing system to ensure efficiency and reliability.

**6. What percentage of antimony by weight must a lead floor flange contain?**

- A. 5.75%
- B. 6.25%
- C. 7.75%**
- D. 8.50%

The correct answer is based on specific regulations pertaining to the composition of lead materials used in plumbing fixtures. For lead floor flanges, the required percentage of antimony is 7.75% by weight. Antimony serves as an alloying element in lead to improve its mechanical properties and corrosion resistance. Understanding material specifications like these is crucial for ensuring compliance with safety standards and regulations in plumbing applications. This is particularly important in New York City, where building codes are stringent and must adhere to specific requirements to ensure safety and reliability in plumbing systems. Knowing the composition not only helps in choosing the right materials for plumbing fixtures but also keeps in line with environmental health guidelines aimed at reducing lead exposure risks.

**7. What is the purpose of a vent stack in plumbing systems?**

- A. To collect excess water
- B. To maintain air pressure in the drainage system and prevent sewer gas from entering buildings**
- C. To reduce water flow
- D. To filter contaminants

The purpose of a vent stack in plumbing systems is to maintain air pressure in the drainage system and prevent sewer gas from entering buildings. This is crucial for the proper functioning of plumbing systems. Vent stacks allow air to enter the plumbing system, which helps to equalize pressure, ensuring that water flows smoothly through the drains. By doing this, they also prevent the sewer gases, which can be harmful and foul-smelling, from entering living spaces. This ventilation is essential for the health and safety of the occupants as well as for the efficiency of the overall plumbing system. Without vent stacks, the drainage system could experience problems such as slow drainage, backups, or causing the traps to be siphoned dry, which would then allow sewage odors to infiltrate the building.

**8. What is the minimum water head that shall be applied to drainage systems during testing?**

- A. 5 feet
- B. 10 feet**
- C. 15 feet
- D. 20 feet

In plumbing systems, especially regarding drainage, testing is critical to ensure that the system is sealed and can handle the expected load. The minimum water head applied during testing is established to ensure the integrity and functionality of the drainage system when subjected to normal operational pressures and conditions. Ten feet of water head is a widely accepted figure in plumbing codes and standards, including those referenced in New York City regulations. This specification helps to detect any potential leaks or weaknesses in the system. When water is applied at this height, it simulates real-world conditions that the drainage system will encounter when in use, providing a rigorous test scenario. Choosing a higher water head, such as 15 or 20 feet, may seem more thorough, but it is often beyond the required testing threshold established by most plumbing codes. Conversely, a lower water head, such as 5 feet, may not provide a sufficient test to ensure that the system can adequately handle its operational demands. Hence, ten feet strikes the necessary balance to ensure that the drainage system is functioning as intended while adhering to regulatory requirements.

**9. What is the maximum height allowed for a plumbing vent above the roof?**

- A. 1 foot
- B. 2 feet**
- C. 3 feet
- D. 4 feet

The maximum height allowed for a plumbing vent above the roof is typically set at 2 feet. This specification is important for ensuring that the vent is adequately exposed above the roofing material to prevent potential issues with drainage and ventilation. An appropriate height helps mitigate the risk of snow accumulation or other obstructions that could block the vent, which is critical for the proper functioning of the plumbing system. Proper venting is essential, as it allows sewer gases to escape and maintains neutral pressure in the drainage system, preventing siphoning of traps. Lower heights may not effectively achieve these goals, while a height surpassing the typical standard can introduce unnecessary challenges in terms of structural integrity and aesthetics.

**10. What is the drainage requirement for an island sink?**

- A. It must have direct waste connection
- B. It must have an indirect waste connection and a vent**
- C. It can drain through the main stack
- D. No specific drainage is required

For an island sink, the requirement is to have an indirect waste connection along with a vent. This is crucial because island sinks do not have a back wall to connect directly to a drain line and therefore require an alternative method for waste removal. An indirect waste connection allows the sink to drain effectively without needing a direct connection to the plumbing system, which is important for maintaining proper drainage and preventing sewer gases from entering the living space. Additionally, a vent is necessary to allow air into the drainage system, which helps maintain appropriate pressure within the pipes and ensures that wastewater flows freely. Without a vent, drain lines could experience siphoning, leading to slow draining or even potential blockages. Thus, the combination of an indirect waste connection and a proper vent is essential for the proper function and health standards of an island sink installation.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://nycmasterplumber.examzify.com>**

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

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