

North Carolina Plumbing Practice Exam (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. A pipe sleeve in a masonry foundation wall should be how much greater than the pipe passing through?
 - A. 2 inches
 - B. 1 inch
 - C. 2 pipe sizes
 - D. 1 pipe size

2. The minimum burial depth for a building sewer is _____.
 - A. 18
 - B. 12
 - C. 24
 - D. as determined by the local jurisdiction

3. A _____ shall be used to support a wall-mounted water closet.
 - A. concealed metal carrier
 - B. flush mount hanger
 - C. wall flange
 - D. horn adapter

4. The prescribed portions of the standards referenced in the IPC and listed in Chapter 15 are considered _____.
 - A. requirements
 - B. guidelines
 - C. alternatives
 - D. modifications

5. A horizontal 4-inch PVC drainage pipe suspended from the ceiling requires _____ at a 90-degree turn.
 - A. axial restraints
 - B. sway bracing
 - C. coupling restraints
 - D. thrust blocks

- 6. For other than prefabricated shower bases, a water test at least ____ inch(es) deep at the threshold is required for shower liners.**
- A. 4**
 - B. 3**
 - C. 2**
 - D. 1**
- 7. What does the abbreviation "NSF" represent in plumbing?**
- A. National Safety Foundation**
 - B. National Sanitation Foundation**
 - C. National Standards Foundation**
 - D. National Service Fidelity**
- 8. A residential care facility with an occupant load of 300 is required to have at least three drinking fountains. Bottled water dispensers can be substituted for ____ of the required drinking fountains.**
- A. none**
 - B. one**
 - C. two**
 - D. three**
- 9. The provisions of the appendices do not apply unless ____.**
- A. referenced in this code**
 - B. applicable to specific conditions**
 - C. specifically adopted**
 - D. relevant to fire or life safety**
- 10. Existing plumbing systems must be brought into compliance with the IPC if the system is ____.**
- A. repaired**
 - B. added on to**
 - C. a hazard to property**
 - D. nonconforming**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A pipe sleeve in a masonry foundation wall should be how much greater than the pipe passing through?

A. 2 inches

B. 1 inch

C. 2 pipe sizes

D. 1 pipe size

The correct answer is that the pipe sleeve in a masonry foundation wall should be two pipe sizes greater than the pipe passing through. This requirement is important for several reasons. First, having a sleeve that is larger allows for easier installation of the pipe, accommodating any slight misalignments that may occur during the installation process. This is particularly relevant in masonry walls, where the construction materials can vary in dimensions and may not always be perfectly uniform. Additionally, a sleeve that is two sizes larger provides necessary space for thermal expansion and contraction of the pipe, which can occur due to changes in temperature. This helps to prevent stress on both the pipe and the wall, reducing the risk of damage or failure over time. Furthermore, the increased diameter allows for any potential future maintenance or upgrades. If a larger pipe is needed later, having a sleeve that is already oversized ensures that there will not be a need for additional excavation or structural changes. In summary, specifying a pipe sleeve that is two sizes larger than the pipe enhances flexibility, durability, and future-proofing of plumbing installations in masonry walls.

2. The minimum burial depth for a building sewer is ____.

A. 18

B. 12

C. 24

D. as determined by the local jurisdiction

The minimum burial depth for a building sewer being determined by the local jurisdiction is correct because local codes can vary significantly based on a variety of factors, including climate, soil conditions, and existing utilities underground. In many instances, municipalities may have specific regulations or amendments to general plumbing codes that address local issues, thereby setting a depth that is appropriate for their unique circumstances. This local requirement ensures that the building sewer is adequately protected from freezing temperatures, potential surface disturbance, and other environmental factors that might be particular to the area. Following the local jurisdiction's rules is crucial for compliance with safety standards and to avoid infractions, which could result in fines or required modifications to plumbing systems. This flexible approach allows for adjustments necessary for local environmental considerations, rather than adhering strictly to a one-size-fits-all depth that may not be appropriate in every location.

3. A ____ shall be used to support a wall-mounted water closet.

- A. concealed metal carrier**
- B. flush mount hanger**
- C. wall flange**
- D. horn adapter**

A concealed metal carrier is specifically designed for supporting wall-mounted water closets, ensuring that they are securely anchored to the wall. This type of carrier provides the necessary structural support to hold the weight of the toilet while also allowing for proper alignment and stability. It typically includes brackets and a frame that are concealed behind the wall, maintaining a clean aesthetic appearance in the bathroom. The other options listed serve different functions in plumbing. A flush mount hanger is used for securing pipes to walls or ceilings but does not provide the structural support needed for a toilet. A wall flange is intended for connecting pipes and fixtures but is not designed to support the weight of a water closet. A horn adapter is typically associated with connecting different plumbing components rather than providing support for fixtures like toilets. Thus, the concealed metal carrier is the appropriate choice for this application.

4. The prescribed portions of the standards referenced in the IPC and listed in Chapter 15 are considered ____.

- A. requirements**
- B. guidelines**
- C. alternatives**
- D. modifications**

The prescribed portions of the standards referenced in the International Plumbing Code (IPC) and listed in Chapter 15 are considered requirements because they establish mandatory criteria that must be followed in plumbing installations and practices. These requirements are designed to ensure safety, functionality, and compliance with legal standards. Adhering to these requirements is crucial for anyone involved in plumbing work, as they form the foundation of acceptable plumbing practices and help avoid violations that could lead to problems or hazards. In contrast, guidelines refer to recommendations that may suggest best practices but are not enforced as mandatory. Alternatives might imply other choices outside the prescribed standards, and modifications would indicate changes to existing codes rather than the established requirements. Thus, recognizing the prescribed portions as requirements highlights their authoritative nature in the context of plumbing standards.

5. A horizontal 4-inch PVC drainage pipe suspended from the ceiling requires ____ at a 90-degree turn.

A. axial restraints

B. sway bracing

C. coupling restraints

D. thrust blocks

In the context of plumbing and specifically for a horizontal 4-inch PVC drainage pipe that makes a 90-degree turn, sway bracing is essential for maintaining stability and ensuring the pipe does not move excessively due to changes in pressure or thermal expansion. When a pipe makes a turn, the force exerted at that change in direction can create lateral movement; therefore, proper bracing is necessary to prevent any unwanted sway or movement. Sway bracing supports the pipe in a way that absorbs these forces, limiting the risk of displacement while also helping to retain the pipe's alignment. This is particularly important in drainage applications where even slight misalignments can lead to drainage issues or leaks. The other options, such as axial restraints and coupling restraints, serve different purposes. Axial restraints limit movement in the direction of the pipe's length, coupling restraints are designed to stabilize joints, and thrust blocks are typically used for securing pipelines in situations where there might be thrust forces, such as at changes in elevation or when dealing with pressurized systems. However, for the specific scenario of a horizontal pipe at a turn, sway bracing is the appropriate choice to address lateral stability concerns.

6. For other than prefabricated shower bases, a water test at least ____ inch(es) deep at the threshold is required for shower liners.

A. 4

B. 3

C. 2

D. 1

The correct answer specifies that a water test at least 2 inches deep at the threshold is required for shower liners, particularly when not using prefabricated shower bases. This standard is important for ensuring that any water that may accumulate during use is contained within the shower area, preventing leaks that could potentially damage the surrounding structures. A depth of 2 inches provides an adequate volume of water to effectively evaluate the integrity of the shower liner, allowing for a thorough assessment of its performance. This requirement is part of plumbing code regulations that aim to safeguard against leaks and enhance the longevity and functionality of shower installations. In contrast, a requirement for a depth of 1 inch would likely be insufficient, as it would pose a risk of failing to detect leaks or breaches in the liner, while a depth of 3 or 4 inches might be excessive for the testing needed and could introduce unnecessary complications. Utilizing a 2-inch depth strikes a balance between effective testing and practicality.

7. What does the abbreviation "NSF" represent in plumbing?

- A. National Safety Foundation**
- B. National Sanitation Foundation**
- C. National Standards Foundation**
- D. National Service Fidelity**

The abbreviation "NSF" represents the National Sanitation Foundation. This organization is dedicated to ensuring public health and safety by establishing rigorous standards for commercial food equipment, water treatment, and plumbing products. NSF certification is crucial in plumbing because it indicates that a product has been tested and meets specific safety and performance criteria. This is particularly important in plumbing systems, where the integrity of materials that come into contact with water can impact health and sanitation. Understanding the role of NSF helps plumbing professionals ensure they are using compliant materials and products that protect public health. This is why choosing NSF-certified items is critical in the plumbing industry—where compliance with health regulations and standards is essential for safe and effective plumbing systems.

8. A residential care facility with an occupant load of 300 is required to have at least three drinking fountains. Bottled water dispensers can be substituted for ____ of the required drinking fountains.

- A. none**
- B. one**
- C. two**
- D. three**

A residential care facility is subject to certain regulations regarding drinking water accessibility for its occupants, particularly in terms of occupant load. In this case, with an occupant load of 300, the requirement is for at least three drinking fountains to be installed. The option indicating that bottled water dispensers can substitute for one of the required drinking fountains aligns with guidelines that aim to ensure adequate hydration while also allowing for flexibility in meeting the required number of fountains. This rule recognizes that while standard drinking fountains provide direct access to potable water, bottled water dispensers can serve as a practical alternative, particularly in settings where traditional fountains may not be feasible or preferred. By allowing the substitution of one drinking fountain with a bottled water dispenser, it maintains a minimum standard of access while accommodating different facility setups or preferences. This compromise emphasizes the importance of providing options for hydration, especially in larger facilities catering to many residents.

9. The provisions of the appendices do not apply unless ____.
- A. referenced in this code
 - B. applicable to specific conditions
 - C. specifically adopted**
 - D. relevant to fire or life safety

The provisions of the appendices in the plumbing code are designed to provide additional guidelines and information that support the main regulations. However, these appendices are not automatically valid or enforceable unless they have been specifically adopted by the governing body or incorporated into the regulations that are being followed. This means that just having appendices available does not mean they are in effect; there must be an explicit decision to make them applicable. This concept ensures that only those additional provisions that are deemed necessary and relevant to the local context are utilized, thus maintaining clarity and consistency in plumbing practices. In practice, this allows jurisdictions to tailor code enforcement to their specific needs without automatically including all appendices, which may not be relevant or necessary for a given area.

10. Existing plumbing systems must be brought into compliance with the IPC if the system is ____.
- A. repaired
 - B. added on to
 - C. a hazard to property**
 - D. nonconforming

The correct answer highlights that an existing plumbing system must be brought into compliance with the International Plumbing Code (IPC) if the system poses a hazard to property. This requirement ensures that any plumbing system that presents risks to safety, health, or property is updated and brought up to current standards to mitigate potential dangers. When a plumbing system is identified as a hazard, whether due to outdated materials, improper installation, or deterioration, addressing the issue in line with current code requirements is crucial. This ensures the safety of inhabitants, protection of the property, and compliance with legal standards. Bringing a hazardous plumbing system into compliance not only rectifies immediate risks but also promotes the overall integrity and reliability of the plumbing infrastructure. This reflects a commitment to maintaining safety and compliance with established plumbing practices as stipulated in the IPC.

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://ncplumbing.examzify.com>

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

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