WISCONSIN PLUMBING PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

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. **What is the maximum developed length above ground for a drain pipe before a cleanout is required?**

   A. 75'

   B. 50'

   C. 100'

   D. 125'

2. **Where must all building drains be installed in relation to the lowest floor levels, assuming sewer elevation permits?**

   A. Below the lowest floor levels on which fixtures may be installed if the public sewer, POWTs or private interceptor main sewer elevation permits.

   B. Above the highest floor levels.

   C. At the grade level of the lowest floor.

   D. Adjacent to the building exterior wall.

3. **What is the minimum separation distance between a water well and a school well?**

   A. 100 feet

   B. 250 feet

   C. 150 feet

   D. 300 feet

4. **TSS stands for which of the following?**

   A. Total Suspended Solids

   B. Total Solids Suspended

   C. Total Suspended Solids in Wastewater

   D. Total Solids in Sediment

5. **SPS Intent requires plumbing in buildings intended for human occupancy to be installed and maintained to protect which of the following?**

   A. The health and safety of the public only.

   B. Only the structural integrity of the building.

   C. The health, safety and welfare of the public or occupants, and the waters of the state.

   D. The appearance and aesthetics of the plumbing system.

6. When may the trench be excavated to grade if the trench bottom does not contain stone larger than one inch and bedrock is not encountered?

A. Where the trench bottom does not contain stone larger than one inch in size or bedrock is not encountered.

B. Only if stone is larger than one inch.

C. Only if bedrock is encountered.

D. Only if the trench is dry for several days.

7. Total suspended solids (TSS) are defined as what?

A. Total suspended solids: solids in wastewater that can be removed readily by standard filtering procedures in a laboratory and reported as milligrams per liter (mg/L).

B. Total dissolved solids: solids dissolved in wastewater measured as mg/L.

C. Total suspended solids: solids that settle to the bottom in detention.

D. Total suspended solids: solids that cannot be filtered.

8. The A Horizon is best described as which of the following?

A. Decomposed organic matter/top layer

B. Bedrock

C. Mineral horizon with loss of silicate clay

D. Subsoil with iron

9. Multipurpose piping systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with which standard?

A. NFPA 13

B. NFPA 70

C. IBC

D. NFPA 13D

10. Bedding shall be sufficiently dry.

A. Bedding shall be sufficiently dry.

B. Bedding shall be wet.

C. Bedding shall be damp.

D. Bedding shall be frozen.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What is the maximum developed length above ground for a drain pipe before a cleanout is required?

A. 75'

B. 50'

C. 100'

D. 125'

Access for cleaning is built into drainage runs by placing cleanouts at intervals. For drain piping that runs above ground, you must not let the section between cleanouts exceed 75 feet of developed length. Developed length means the actual pipe length including any fittings that add length. This rule keeps blockages reachable with a snake or rodding tool. So if a run could be longer than 75 feet between access points, you need to add a cleanout somewhere in the middle so every section remains at or under 75 feet. The other distances aren't the standard for above-ground drains; 75 feet is the limit that ensures practical cleaning access.

2. Where must all building drains be installed in relation to the lowest floor levels, assuming sewer elevation permits?

A. Below the lowest floor levels on which fixtures may be installed if the public sewer, POWTs or private interceptor main sewer elevation permits.

B. Above the highest floor levels.

C. At the grade level of the lowest floor.

D. Adjacent to the building exterior wall.

The main idea here is gravity drainage and proper elevation relative to where fixtures can be located. The invert of the building drain—the bottom inside surface of the pipe—must be lower than the lowest floor that may contain a fixture. Why this matters: with the drain running below that level, every fixture on any floor above has a clear downward path to the sewer, so waste and water can flow by gravity toward the public or private sewer without needing pumps. This also helps ensure adequate slope and allows cleanouts and venting to function properly, while reducing the chance of backflow creating problems on upper floors, assuming the sewer can accept the flow. If the building drain were not below the lowest possible fixture level, some fixtures could end up with insufficient fall or would require pumping, which complicates design and maintenance. The exact placement also depends on sewer elevation; if the sewer is high enough to accept the flow, gravity drainage can be maintained by keeping the building drain below that lowest fixture level. The other options would not guarantee that consistent gravity flow from all fixtures or proper fall to the sewer, and they don't address the vertical relationship between the drain and the fixture levels.

3. What is the minimum separation distance between a water well and a school well?

A. 100 feet

B. 250 feet

C. 150 feet

D. 300 feet

Keeping wells far enough apart reduces the chance that contaminants or changes in groundwater flow around one well will affect the other, and it also minimizes interference between the wells' draw zones. In Wisconsin practice, the minimum separation distance between a water well and a school well is 250 feet, which provides a buffer so surface or subsurface contamination sources near the school aren't able to impact the other well, and so each well can reliably produce drinking water without shared contamination risks. If wells are closer, overlapping capture zones and faster potential transport paths increase the risk of cross-contamination and variability in water quality.

4. TSS stands for which of the following?

A. Total Suspended Solids

B. Total Solids Suspended

C. Total Suspended Solids in Wastewater

D. Total Solids in Sediment

Total Suspended Solids describe the portion of solids in a water sample that do not dissolve and remain suspended. These particles are large enough to be captured by filtration, and the amount is expressed as mass per volume (usually mg/L). This makes TSS a key indicator of particulate pollution and a measure of how well a wastewater treatment process, like settling or filtration, is removing solids from the water. It's the standard term because it clearly specifies what is being measured: solids that are suspended, not dissolved. The other phrasings don't fit the established terminology. Reordering the words changes the conventional name, and phrases like "in sediment" refer to solids that are already settled out or settled matter, not the suspended solids in the water column.

5. SPS Intent requires plumbing in buildings intended for human occupancy to be installed and maintained to protect which of the following?

A. The health and safety of the public only.

B. Only the structural integrity of the building.

C. The health, safety and welfare of the public or occupants, and the waters of the state.

D. The appearance and aesthetics of the plumbing system.

The main idea is that plumbing codes exist to protect people and the environment, not just the look or the structure of a building. Placing and maintaining a plumbing system properly ensures safe drinking water, prevents contamination, and avoids health hazards inside the building. It also covers environmental protection by safeguarding the waters of the state from pollution and backflow-related issues that could contaminate rivers, lakes, or groundwater. That broader scope—protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public or occupants, and the waters of the state—is why this wording is the best one. The other choices miss either the occupant welfare, the environmental protection, or focus on aspects (like aesthetics or structural integrity) that aren't the primary aims of the SPS intent.

6. When may the trench be excavated to grade if the trench bottom does not contain stone larger than one inch and bedrock is not encountered?

A. Where the trench bottom does not contain stone larger than one inch in size or bedrock is not encountered.

B. Only if stone is larger than one inch.

C. Only if bedrock is encountered.

D. Only if the trench is dry for several days.

The key idea is that a trench can be excavated to the finished grade only when the bottom is suitable for backfill and support, meaning it is free of large stones and there is no bedrock present. Stones bigger than one inch can create unstable spots and voids that complicate backfill and grading, while encountering bedrock would require additional rock removal or different methods beyond ordinary trenching to grade. When these conditions are met—no stones larger than one inch and no bedrock—the trench can be brought to grade safely and with a stable base. The other options describe conditions that would not reliably allow grading, such as needing large stones, requiring bedrock, or focusing on dryness, which isn't the standard basis for when to grade a trench.

7. Total suspended solids (TSS) are defined as what?

A. Total suspended solids: solids in wastewater that can be removed readily by standard filtering procedures in a laboratory and reported as milligrams per liter (mg/L).

B. Total dissolved solids: solids dissolved in wastewater measured as mg/L.

C. Total suspended solids: solids that settle to the bottom in detention.

D. Total suspended solids: solids that cannot be filtered.

Total suspended solids are the solids in wastewater that remain on a filter and can be removed by standard laboratory filtration. This definition distinguishes them from dissolved solids, which pass through the filter, and from solids that simply settle out or cannot be filtered. The amount is reported as a concentration, typically milligrams per liter, determined by filtering a known volume, drying the residue, and weighing it.

8. The A Horizon is best described as which of the following?

A. Decomposed organic matter/top layer

B. Bedrock

C. Mineral horizon with loss of silicate clay

D. Subsoil with iron

The A horizon is the upper part of the mineral soil, commonly called the topsoil. It's where mineral material from the parent rocks is mixed with decomposed organic matter (humus) from surface residues. That blend gives it a darker color and makes it rich in nutrients, which is where most plant roots actively explore and feed. It sits just below any surface organic layer and above deeper horizons where leaching and illuviation occur more. So, describing it as the upper mineral layer with decomposed organic matter aligns with its role as the main root zone and the zone of integrated mineral matter and humus. The other horizons are different: bedrock is the R horizon, the subsoil with iron is the B horizon, and the mineral horizon with loss of silicate clay is the E horizon.

9. Multipurpose piping systems shall be designed and installed in accordance with which standard?

A. NFPA 13

B. NFPA 70

C. IBC

D. NFPA 13D

Multipurpose piping in residential sprinkler design is governed by NFPA 13D. This standard covers sprinklers installed in one- and two-family dwellings and manufactured homes and explicitly allows the same piping system to serve both domestic water use and the fire sprinkler system, which is why it's the appropriate reference for these setups. In contrast, NFPA 13 applies to larger or non-residential systems and typically requires dedicated sprinkler piping separate from the domestic water supply; NFPA 70 is the electrical code; and the IBC is a broad building code, not a sprinkler-specific design standard. NFPA 13D also includes requirements such as backflow protection to safeguard the potable water supply and ensure the system functions correctly within residential conditions.

10. Bedding shall be sufficiently dry.

A. Bedding shall be sufficiently dry.

B. Bedding shall be wet.

C. Bedding shall be damp.

D. Bedding shall be frozen.

Keeping bedding sufficiently dry is essential for a stable, uniform foundation under the pipe. Dry bedding compacts evenly around the pipe and provides predictable support, so the pipe holds its proper grade and alignment once backfill is placed. If the bedding is wet or damp, it can slump, wash out, or shift during backfilling, creating voids and allowing unequal settlement or movement that can lead to misalignment or leaks. In cold weather, water in bedding can freeze and cause frost heave, lifting or shifting the pipe. So the best choice emphasizes that dryness supports the pipe structure and long-term integrity, whereas moisture in the bedding undermines that stability.

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://wisconsinplumbing.examzify.com

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