National Standard Plumbing Code™ (NSPC)

First published in 1933, the NSPC is designed to ensure the proper installation of plumbing systems, providing local and state governments, code administration bodies, and the industry with a modern code to protect health and promote safety. In 2017, IAPMO and the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors—National Association (PHCC) executed an agreement transferring ownership of the NSPC to IAPMO. The transfer encompasses all editions of the NSPC and ensures the code can progress for years to come.

The 2021 National Standard Plumbing Code—Illustrated provides the latest information about common materials, fixtures, devices and equipment systems used or installed in plumbing systems. The NSPC contains revisions that have been included to promote sustainable plumbing practices. This new edition is printed in the popular illustrated format, with comments and illustrations clearly shown as supplemental information. The illustrations and supplementary notes make it an indispensable training tool.

Developed and maintained in New Jersey by the state’s most experienced and knowledgeable plumbing experts.

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IAPMO History

Founded more than 90 years ago, the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) has provided jurisdictions everywhere with plumbing codes that protect the health and safety of each and every citizen.

The National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) was first published by the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling-Contractors Association (PHCC) in 1933 as the Standard Plumbing Code. The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), developer of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), an American National Standard, acquired the NSPC in 2017 and has dutifully continued its development and administration in New Jersey and other adopting jurisdictions.

Designed to ensure the proper installation of plumbing systems, the NSPC provides local and state governments, code administrative bodies and the industry with a modern code to protect public health and safety.

IAPMO History

Basic Principles

The NSPC is based on 22 principles. Here are the first seven.

Principle 1
All occupied premises shall have potable water.

Principle 2
Adequate water required.

Principle 3
Hot water required.

Principle 4
Water conservation.

Principle 5
Safety devices. (e.g., devices for heating or storing water) shall be so designed and installed as to guard against dangers from explosions or overheating.

Principle 6
Use public sewer where available.

Principle 7
Required plumbing fixtures to meet basic requirements of sanitation and personal hygiene.

Illustrated

Many support documents for codes have illustrated versions, but for many years the NSPC has incorporated that into the body of the code. Illustrations provide visual guidance to the designer, installer, and inspector alike. Illustrations and codes appearing together in one book simplifies the life of anyone needing the information within the NSPC.

Green

Progressive municipalities and jurisdictions seeking to be on the leading edge of sustainable initiatives will find invaluable information in Appendix G of the NSPC, which since 2012, has been based on IAPMO’s Green Plumbing and Mechanical Code Supplement (now WE-Stand).

“nThe plumber protects the health of the nation. The inspector, along with the National Standard Plumbing Code, keeps it consistent with the state of New Jersey. The NSPC is an invaluable tool for inspectors, allowing for enforcement to be clear and precise. Protecting the health and safety of every person in New Jersey is the job of every plumber and inspector working together with the National Standard Plumbing Code. The NSPC is updated every three years to keep it current.”

Mike Baker,
Wayne Township, NJ, Past President of New Jersey Plumbing Inspectors Association