

Floor sinks

SUBJECT: Drainage and venting requirements

This bulletin has been jointly developed by Safety Services and the Plumbing Technical Council to inform the plumbing industry of the requirements associated with the installation of Floor sinks. Floor sinks are a generic name for a style of floor drain (typical models have removable grates and a sediment bucket) and do not remove the requirements for fixtures that discharge into them.

The purpose of this notice is to ensure that **Designers, Safety Codes Officers and Installers** are aware that provisions in the **Plumbing Code Regulation and National Plumbing Code 2005** must be used for the Installation of *floor drains and fixtures that discharge into them*. The intent of these requirements is to limit the probability that waste will be improperly directed, which could lead to backflow, which could lead to exposure to contaminated waste, which could lead to harm to persons.

National Plumbing Code (NPC) – 2005 Division B

2.4.2. Connections to Drainage Systems

2.4.2.1. Connections to Sanitary Drainage Systems

- 1) Every *fixture* shall be *directly connected* to a *sanitary drainage system*, except that
 - a) drinking fountains may be
 - i) *indirectly connected* to a *sanitary drainage system*, or
 - ii) connected to a *storm drainage system* provided that where the system is subject to *backflow*, a *backwater valve* is installed in the fountain *waste pipe* (see Appendix A),
 - b) drainage pans on heating/cooling units may be connected to a *storm drainage system* provided that where the system is subject to *backflow*, a *backwater valve* is installed,
 - c) a floor drain may be connected to a *storm drainage system* provided it is located where it can receive only *clear-water waste* or *storm water*,
 - d) *fixtures* or appliances that discharge only *clear-water waste* may be connected to a *storm drainage system* or be drained onto a roof, and
 - e) the following devices shall be *indirectly connected* to a *drainage system*:
 - i) a device for the display, storage, preparation or processing of food or drink,

- ii) a sterilizer,
- iii) a device that uses water as a cooling or heating medium,
- iv) a water operated device,
- v) a water treatment device, or
- vi) a drain or overflow from a *water system* or a heating system (see Appendix A).

A floor sink is a style of floor drain and shall not accept discharge from a fixture that is required to be directly connected.

1. Only drinking fountains and those fixtures identified in (e) above would qualify for indirect discharge into a properly installed “floor sink.”
2. All other fixtures would require direct connection as indicated in the NPC 2005.
3. The developed length of every fixture outlet pipe shall not exceed 900 mm – NPC 2.4.8.2. Division B (Alberta amendment).
4. Every fixture shall be protected by a separate trap except as identified in NPC 2.4.5.1. Division B.

Note: This information is not intended to limit the use of floor drains where required.