

# THE PLUMB LINE

*SUMMER 2025*



Happy Independence Day, Have a safe Summer

## BE ADVISED

This office has received reports that gas regulators are being vented with PEX tubing. This is a violation of the Fuel Gas Code. Only PVC conforming to UL 651, is permitted and only when used outdoors. This is the only exception to the restrictions that plastic pipe is to be underground.

**AFGC 403.6.3 Regulator vent piping.** Plastic pipe, tubing, and fittings used to connect regulator vents to remote vent terminations shall be PVC conforming to UL 651. PVC vent piping shall not be installed indoors. Per the IFGC Commentary on 403.6.3 Regulator vent piping” *The referenced standard is for Schedules 40 and 80 PVC electrical conduit. This material was chosen because it is required to be **sunlight-resistant** for use above ground. The typical application for regulator vent piping is above ground and outdoors where it would be subject to the degrading effects of ultraviolet radiation in sunlight. Consistent with other provisions in the code, **plastic pipe that does or could convey fuel gas is prohibited indoors**. Regulator vent outlets are piped to maintain separation between vent outlets and sources of ignition and air intake openings in building envelopes.”*

## RESEARCH ON LEAD IN PLUMBING SYSTEM

Lead can enter drinking water when plumbing materials that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content that corrodes pipes and fixtures. The most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead pipes, faucets, and fixtures. In homes with lead pipes that connect the home to the water main, also known as lead service lines, these pipes are typically the most significant source of lead in the water. Lead pipes are more likely to be found in older cities and homes built before 1986. Among homes without lead service lines, the most common problem is with brass or chrome-plated brass faucets and plumbing with lead solder.

Most faucets purchased prior to 1997 were constructed of brass or chrome-plated brass, which contain up to 8 percent lead (the main metals in brass are copper and zinc). Water sitting for several hours or overnight in a brass faucet can leach lead from the brass faucet interior which may produce high lead levels in the first draw of drinking water. Later regulations mandated that most faucets purchased after 1997 contain less lead than previously used thereby reducing the possible leaching of lead. However, the most recent legislation, called “Get the Lead Out,” mandates that after January 4, 2014, all faucets purchased will contain no more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead in relation to wetted surface.

<https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/pdf/LeadInDrinkingWater.pdf>

You can find a Certified Laboratories List on the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality web site.

[https://www.nsf.org/newsroom\\_pdf/nsf61-372\\_lead\\_insert\\_LWD-1350-0513.pdf](https://www.nsf.org/newsroom_pdf/nsf61-372_lead_insert_LWD-1350-0513.pdf)

### PROTECTIVE HEALTH CODES STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

William “Bill” Sims retired from his position as the State Plumbing Inspector Supervisor, at the end of February. Bill will be missed but we wish him a long and happy retirement. Ralph McClenahan has replaced Bill in the vacated position. Please join us in welcoming Ralph McClenahan as the new State Plumbing Inspector Supervisor. We will have some new inspectors to announce soon.

### FINES AND PENALTIES

Matt McReynolds-MP5559-No Permit- Consent-\$2,000

Derek Stowe-No License-\$1,500

Frank Fall-No License-\$2,000

Frank Swank-MP4989-No Permit-Consent-\$2,000

Frank Swank-MP4989-Cosent-\$2,000

Undra Fletcher-No License-\$4,000

Kenneth Ketchens-No License-\$6,000 & \$1,000

Randy Fraser-MP5423-Utilizing Unlicensed Person-\$1,000



### THE LAW

#### **17-38-204. Local regulatory authority — Exceptions.**

(a) A city, town, or county having a system of either water, sewerage, or gas utility, or a combination of utilities, by ordinance, rules, regulations, or customer contract shall prescribe rules and regulations governing plumbing not in conflict and equal to or exceeding the minimum standards prescribed by the Department of Health.

(b) A plumbing installation shall not be:

- (1) Installed in any building within this state except in accordance with or exceeding the minimum requirements of the department; or
- (2) Started without the prescribed licenses, permits, and acceptable plan review of plumbing plans and specifications when required.

### LICENSING REMINDER

Master, Journeyman and Apprentice Licenses expire every year on December 31. All other licenses issued by this office expire June 30. This is not new. State law provides for a system of staggering expiration dates and for a thirty-day grace period for renewal (See below). Until close of business on January 31 and June 30, licenses may be renewed. This can be done online, by mail, or in person. On February 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> each year, licenses that have NOT been renewed are deactivated. Deactivated licenses will not be renewed, they must be re-instated unless, as stated in the statute “there is sufficient reason for not renewing the license in the time specified”. A Re-instatement application and fees will be required. In addition, plumbing without an active license is a statutory violation a may subject the license hold and Responsible Master to Civil Penalty Fines starting a \$100 per day.

**Renew your Licenses within thirty days of expiration and Master Plumbers, check your employee’s licenses.**

**17-38-308. Expiration and renewal.** (a) All licenses shall be renewed annually within thirty (30) days after the expiration date of the license. The Department of Health may renew a license after the thirty-day period if there is sufficient reason for not renewing the license in the time specified and after payment of penalties as prescribed by rule.

(b) The department may set a system of staggered expiration dates for all licenses issued by the department.