



# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A Publication of The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester

February 2023

**The Independent  
Master Plumbers of  
Westchester**

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## President's Message

Winter is almost over! Hopefully the lack of sustained cold this winter didn't hurt your business. Spring brings a welcomed change.

The IMPW is no different as we embark on some new initiatives. We hope you have received and responded to the questionnaire that Karen sent to all members this week. If you haven't done so, please check your email and select some new topics you would like to discuss at the meetings. This will allow us to provide additional information at the meetings on topics that are meaningful to you.

You will also hear/see at the meetings:

- o Plumbing Code issues - Each month a former or current code official will dissect/explain one item from the [new] Plumbing Code.
- o Technical presentations - presenters on proper installation techniques for specific items
- o License Board issues and report (not new but always important).
- o Con Ed issues

We also hope to set aside one meeting later in the Spring for a less formal 'get together'. We will provide you with more details in the near future.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023 beginning at 6:30 at The Cabin Restaurant.

I hope to see you all there!

Sincerely,  
Mario Bruni  
President, IMPW

## NEXT MEETING:

Thurs., February 23, 2023  
6:30pm  
The Cabin Restaurant  
1172 Knollwood Rd  
White Plains, NY

**Education**

**And**

**Training**

This page is  
under construction.

More to follow!



Building Standards  
and Codes

Fire Prevention  
and Control

John Addario PE, Director Building Standards and Codes

Francis J. Nerney Jr., State Fire Administrator

June 3, 2020

CODE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Issue 2020-06

## Code Outreach Program – Building Traps

This edition of the Code Outreach Program is intended to clarify the provisions and prohibition of *building traps* in buildings regulated by the Residential Construction provisions of the Uniform Code.

*Building traps* are prohibited without exception in new residential construction that is governed by the 2020 Residential Code of New York State (2020 RCNYS). *Building traps* were first prohibited in new construction in the 2003 RCNYS, but exceptions could be made for local conditions that necessitated their installation as required by the code enforcement official. These exceptions were allowed until the incorporation of the 2015 International Residential Code into the Uniform Code with the 2016 update, which prohibited them in new construction.

There is no definition for *building trap* in the 2020 RCNYS, but Section 201.3 of the 2020 RCNYS allows for the use of the definition in the 2020 Plumbing Code of New York State, which defines a *building trap* as follows:

***Building trap.*** A device, fitting or assembly of fittings installed in the building drain to prevent circulation of air between the drainage system of the building and the building sewer.

Understanding the distinction between a *building drain* and a *building sewer* is vital to understanding *building traps* and their prohibition. They are defined in Chapter 2 of the 2020 RCNYS (with emphasis added) as:

***Building drain.*** The lowest piping that collects the discharge from all other drainage piping inside the house and extends 30 inches (762 mm) in developed length of pipe, beyond the exterior walls and conveys the drainage to the building sewer.

***Building sewer.*** That part of the drainage system that extends from the end of the building drain and conveys its discharge to a public sewer, private sewer, individual sewage-disposal system or other point of disposal.

The primary purpose of the *building trap* is to "prevent circulation of air between the drainage system of the building and the building sewer" as indicated in the definition above. However, according to Section P3201.6 of the 2020 RCNYS, each plumbing fixture requires a separate trap, therefore the *building trap* is redundant because blockage of sewer gases is performed by each fixture's trap water seal. In addition, the *building trap* can potentially result in a blocked or clogged pipe.

If a *building trap* is removed during alteration of the plumbing system, the following must be considered:

- Alterations to any plumbing system shall conform to the requirements for a new plumbing system without requiring the existing plumbing system to comply with all the requirements of this code. Alterations shall not cause an existing system to become unsafe, unsanitary or overloaded. See Section AJ601.11 of the 2020 RCNYS
- *Building traps* sometimes serve as the only cleanout for both the horizontal drain (Section P3005.2.1 of 2020 RCNYS) as well as the cleanout for the building drain and building sewer junction (Section P3005.2.3 of 2020 RCNYS), so its removal might require new cleanout(s) to be installed as required by the Code.

Complicating matters is the narrow definition of a *building trap*, which is only considered a *building trap* if it is installed in the *building drain*, thus a trap installed in the *building sewer* or *public sewer* is not specifically addressed. If a trap is installed or removed in the *building sewer* or *public sewer*, the trap cannot be installed in a manner that puts the existing parts of the plumbing system, that are regulated by the Uniform Code out of compliance. *Public sewer* is defined in Chapter 2 of the 2020 RCNYS as follows:

***Public sewer.*** That part of the drainage system of pipes, installed and maintained by a city, township, county, public utility company or other public entity, and located on public property, in the street or in an approved dedicated easement of public or community use.

An example of such non-compliance would be the location of a vent accompanying a trap installed in the *building sewer* or *public sewer* that is located too close to a window or other opening as prohibited by Section P3103.5 of the 2020 RCNYS. This vent type that is located close to the upstream side of the trap is commonly referred to as a "fresh air intake." The name "fresh air intake," however, is an inaccurate description for a vent because all vents by definition enable air to be transferred in both directions. Therefore, gases can be emitted by this vent necessitating its separation from windows and other openings.

If an individual homeowner wants to add a *building trap* to the *building drain*, the individual needs to acquire a variance because this is expressly prohibited within the Code. A municipality cannot require *building traps* in *building drains* as this is a less restrictive provision and therefore cannot be approved as a More Restrictive Local Standard (MRLS). If a local government wants to require a trap on a *building sewer*, the local government would have to petition for an MRLS as this would be requiring something above and beyond the Uniform Code.

For more information about MRLS please see [2018-3 - More Restrictive Construction Standards \(Uniform Code & Executive Law § 379\)](#) or visit our [MRLS webpage](#). For more information on variances please see [2019-8 - Appeals and Variances](#).

Please look for our next edition of the Code Outreach Program at the beginning of next month.

DBSC - A Division of Department of State

OFPC - An Office of the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services

If you have questions pertaining to the Code Outreach Program, email us at [COP.codes@dps.ny.gov](mailto:COP.codes@dps.ny.gov)

If you have questions pertaining to the Uniform Code or Energy Code, email our technical support group at: [codes@dps.ny.gov](mailto:codes@dps.ny.gov)

To cancel your subscription to this email list, click on the unsubscribe link found [here](#).

BUILDING  
STANDARDS  
AND  
CODES

**PHMSA**

**DRUG**

**TESTING**

**UPDATE**

**PHMSA reduces minimum random drug testing rate for covered employees in 2023.**

## **PHMSA Reduces Minimum Random Drug Testing**

As you are aware, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has announced that the minimum random drug testing rate for covered employees will be reduced to 25 percent in 2023. This change will be effective from January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. We will notify you if any other DOT modality makes a rate change.

**\*All National Grid contractors/subcontractors are required to test 5% higher than the required random rate.\***

The DCM TEAM is in the process of creating an improved contractor/subcontractor verification form that we will require all DER's to initial and complete for each owner/operator. We will be sending out the notification shortly. We appreciate your patience.

You can read the full order here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/23/2022-27906/pipeline-safety-random-drug-testing-rate-management-information-system-reporting-and-obtaining-drug>

NYS  
Backflow  
Testers  
Association

New York State Backflow Testers Association (NYSBTA) will be expanding their teaching staff starting January 1, 2023. We will be adding two (2) new Instructors to the Backflow Classes who have not only Backflow experience but also Plumbing experience as well. I am happy to announce the addition of:

**Chris Casa**

**Lead Instructor**

**Josephine O’Grady “Jo the Plumber”**

**Asst. Instructor**

With the addition of these two (2) we will also be having a third teaching location. The Third location will be in Mount Vernon, NY. By having this third location we will be able to reach out to the people in New York City/5 Boroughs better since there will be a train stop not too far from the school.

Besides the new Instructors for the Backflow classes, NYSBTA will be having CPR/AED, OSHA, and other classes in safety.

Depending on the class size, the lead will be John most of the times. There will be times when John is teaching a Certification class upstate on a day of a Re-certification.

Re-certifications will be done by Chris unless more than 10 students are in attendance.

John E. Cimino, Founder of NYSBTA

***Please do not forget to have your test kits calibrated!***

***You can also purchase testing equipment on our website.***

**[PLEASE SEE SCHEDULES ON FOLLOWING PAGES ...](#)**

**NYS Backflow Testers Association**  
**NYSBTA 2023 Classes**

**Portchester, NY**

**Certification Classes**

**Feb.27 – Mar 3**  
**Mar 20 – 24**  
**Apr. 3 – 7**  
**May 15 – 19**  
**June 12 – 16**  
**July 17 – 21**  
**Aug. 28 – Sept. 1**  
**Sept. 25 – 29**  
**Oct. 23 – 27**  
**Nov. 13 - 17**

**Re-Certification Classes**

**Jan. 30**  
**Feb. 13**  
**Mar. 6**  
**Apr. 10**  
**May 2**  
**Jun. 26**  
**Aug. 1**  
**Sept. 8**  
**Oct, 2**  
**Dec. 11**

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**NYS**  
**Backflow**  
**Testers**  
**Association**  
**Schedules**

NYS  
Backflow  
Testers  
Association  
Schedules

**NYS Backflow Testers Association**  
**NYSBTA 2023 Classes**

**Mt. Vernon, NY**

**Certification Classes**

**Jan. 16 – 20**  
**Feb. 13 – 17**

**Re-Certification Classes**

**Jan. 7**  
**Feb. 11**  
**Mar. 4**  
**Apr. 1**  
**May 15**  
**Jun. 3**  
**Jul. 17**  
**Sept. 2**  
**Nov. 4**  
**Nov. 18**  
**Dec. 2**

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NYS  
Backflow  
Testers  
Association  
Schedules

**NYS Backflow Testers Association**  
**NYSBTA 2023 Classes**

**Waterford, NY**

**Certification Classes**

~~Jan. 23 – 27~~  
Mar. 13 - 17  
May 8 – 12  
Aug. 21 – 25  
Sept. 11 – 15  
Oct. 16 – 20  
Nov. 27 – Dec. 1  
Dec. 11 - 15

**Re-Certification Classes**

~~Jan. 9~~  
Apr. 24  
Jun. 5  
Jul. 10  
Aug. 7  
Nov. 6  
Dec. 18

All classes are taught by John and/or David Hahn.





**NYS Backflow Testers Association**  
**NYSBTA 2023 Classes**

**Cortland, NY**

**Certification Classes**

Feb. 6 – 10  
Apr. 17 – 21  
Jun. 19 – 23  
Aug. 14– 18  
Dec.4 - 8

**Re-Certification Classes**

Apr. 3  
May 22  
Oct. 30  
Nov. 20

All classes are taught by John and/or David Hahn.

# File A Complaint With Westchester Consumer Protection

## File a Complaint With Westchester County

### Consumer Protection

The IMPW represents the Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester to give them a voice on issues and events and to present a unified front for input on the Local and County level. Many of our members have expressed concern for covering and/or unlicensed plumbing work being performed within Westchester County. If you are aware of covering or unlicensed work being performed, contact us via a confidential email on our website IMPW.net. You will find a link on the first page at the bottom labeled "*Have Concerns?*" and we will assist you in completing the complaint and forwarding it to the Consumer Protection Department/Westchester Plumbing Board. It is important that you provide as much information as possible for your complaint.

For more information, please visit:

<https://consumer.westchestergov.com>

Your consumers/customers/homeowners/residents should file a complaint within Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection by one of the following methods:

Click this link:

<https://consumer.westchestergov.com/contact-us/file-a-consumer-complaint>

Email:

[conpro@westchestergov.com](mailto:conpro@westchestergov.com)

Phone:

914-995-2155

**2023  
Meeting  
Dates**

**Mark  
Your  
Calendars**

**January 26**

**February 23**

**March 23**

**April 27**

**May 18**

**June 22**

**September 28**

**October 26**

**No meetings held in:**

**July**

**August**

**November**

**December**

**Space is limited!  
Contact Karen to make your  
reservation**

**[karen.dimitriou@gmail.com](mailto:karen.dimitriou@gmail.com)**

**[Sponsorships are available  
for 2023!](#)**

**[Please contact  
Karen Dimitriou for details  
@:  
\[karen.dimitriou@gmail.com\]\(mailto:karen.dimitriou@gmail.com\)](#)**

2023  
IMPW  
Newsletter  
Advertising  
Application



**2023 IMPW  
NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING**

P.O. Box 326, Tuckahoe, New York 10707



GENERAL INFORMATION:

The IMPW is dedicated to the support of the Independent Westchester Plumber. Our monthly newsletter provides you with an opportunity to reach every licensed master plumber who does business in Westchester County. In addition it reaches county officials, other related trades, insurance agents, manufacturers representatives, suppliers and vendors.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to reach your targeted audience!

We hope that you will agree that this is a unique opportunity to reach the audience you desire and support an organization that is so important to your customers.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES:

Artwork needs to be submitted by the first of each month in pdf format.

\*Please note that all ads will be black and white.\*

AVAILABLE ADVERTISEMENT SIZES & PRICING:

\_\_\_\_\_ QUARTER PAGE ADVERTISEMENT: (4 1/2" X 3 1/2")  
\$195.00 per month (3 month minimum), a 12 month commitment = 1 month free

\_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS CARD SIZE ADVERTISEMENT: (3 3/4" X 2 1/2")  
\$100.00 per month (3 month minimum), a 12 month commitment = 1 month free

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APPLICATION FOR NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING:

CONTACT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

TYPE OF CREDIT CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

## **NEXT MEETING**

### **DATE:**

**Thursday, February 23, 2022**

**6:30 pm**

**The Cabin Restaurant**

**1172 Knollwood Road**

**White Plains, NY**

### ***General Disclaimer Statement***

This information provided in this newsletter is to be used only to educate businesses and the general public on plumbing and related construction issues that may affect their daily business or personal lives.

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The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate. However, the IMPW cannot and will not assume responsibility for the consequences of errors contained in the articles or misapplication of any information provided.

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## **The Independent Master Plumbers of Westchester Mission Statement**

### **Our Mission:**

It is the mission of the IMPW to represent the Independent Master Plumbers in Westchester, to keep them apprised of issues and events that impact their trade and livelihood and to provide them with an opportunity to take part in, provide input, and impact the decision-making process that effects the plumbing trade, and to strive to create and maintain a level playing field for Independent Plumbers. .

### **History:**

In the mid-1990's, a few local plumbing companies got together with a shared a vision: They felt it would be to the advantage of everyone in the county (county residents, master plumbers, tradesmen, legislators, etc), if an organization was formed to represent the Independent Plumbers in Westchester County. Up to that point, Independent plumbers were fragmented and each operated with little exposure to their counterparts and competitors and with absolutely no opportunity to take part in the decision-forming processes at the local or County level. In fact, an early catalyst for their vision and the formation of the IMPW, was the impending adoption of a new local law that would establish a County-wide plumbing license. This new 'County' license would replace the 35+ local licenses required throughout Westchester County. Up to that point, Independent licensed Plumbers had absolutely no input into the formation of the initial rules and requirements that were to be adopted and that would ultimately have a dramatic impact on the plumbing trade (and their ability to continue to be a part of it) in Westchester County.

The three initial companies contacted every Independent company listed in the county, held multiple meetings that included all these companies, and ultimately formed the IMPW. From the outset, the first impact of the new IMPW was to provide representation for Independent Master Plumbers at the County level where we found legislators that, literally, had no idea just how many Independent plumbers existed in Westchester. This was understandable since up to that time the only Plumbing representation at that level was by the Plumbing Union(s).

The fledgling IMPW quickly impacted the proposed/impending Plumbing License Law and was instrumental in making last-minute necessary modifications to some of the proposed 'rules' that protected the livelihood of Independent Plumbers and their ability to continue working in Westchester County.

### **Today:**

Since then, the IMPW has worked hard to gain more representation at the County level. The IMPW is currently working with the Westchester County Plumbing License Board to help create a better Plumber's and Journeyman 'testing' system, to provide more training for plumbers, journeymen and apprentices, and to continue to strive for a more level playing field in the legislative and decision-making process at the County level. We have monthly meetings and publish a monthly newsletter. We've worked with other organizations (Like the New York Alliance for Fair Competition) to represent Westchester Master Plumbers at the State level and before the Public Service Commission to stop unfair competition by Utility companies in the plumbing & heating area. Our numbers have grown from the first three companies to over 100 Master Plumbers today. As of this writing, two members of the IMPW are now seated as members of the Westchester County Plumbing License Board and a 3rd seat is available for an Independent Journeyman.