

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Policy P.04

Unlisted Plumbing Fixtures

The Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) adopted by the state of Alaska and the Municipality of Anchorage requires that all plumbing fixtures be listed or labeled (third-party certified) by a listing agency (accredited conformity assessment body). In order for a fixture to be listed it must conform to approved applicable recognized standards referenced by the UPC. The purpose behind the listing requirement is to ensure that fixtures meet minimum specified requirements for sanitation, durability and safety.

Occasionally, some stores in Anchorage sell unlisted fixtures. Unlisted fixtures are also available on the internet. Except as provided for in this policy, the municipality cannot and will not approve unlisted plumbing fixtures. Consequently it is very important to verify the listing of a fixture prior to purchase and installation. The plumbing inspector will verify that all plumbing fixtures are listed at time of final inspection. Have proof of listing available for the inspector.

On a case by case basis, unlisted plumbing fixtures may be approved as a code modification under the following limitations:

1. The fixture is installed in a detached single family home.
2. The fixture is constructed of dense, durable, non-absorbent materials and shall have smooth, impervious surfaces, free from unnecessary concealed fouling surfaces in accordance with the UPC.
3. Installation of the fixture does not create a potential cross connection as defined in the UPC.
4. The fixture is a custom or hand-made one-of-a-kind fixture of such unique nature that a similar listed version is not available.

In order to obtain approval of an unlisted fixture, the home owner shall provide a letter addressed to the building official stating the following:


1. They acknowledge the fixture is not listed.
2. They acknowledge the fixture may not be sanitary, durable or safe.
3. They accept responsibility for any illness, harm or damage caused by the unlisted fixture and will hold the municipality harmless.

The letter shall be recorded on the property at the state recorders office. Verification of recording shall be provided to the municipality prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

What are standards and listings and why are they required?

Standards are sets of rules that outline specification of design of operation, quality of materials used and performance criteria. Additionally, standards are minimum requirements that ensure the product will perform safely and minimize risk of failure and potential injury to an individual. Without standards, products can be manufactured from materials of unknown origin and content. The materials may not be able to withstand the day to day use and constant expansion and contraction due to frequent and abrupt temperature variances. Additionally, if there is any porosity, an environment for bacteria and other germs is provided which could become unsanitary and pose a potential health risk.

The only unbiased way to ensure that a product meets all of the required standards is to have the product listed by a third-party listing agency or assessment conformance body. This listing means that a product has undergone testing to ensure it meets the intended standard(s) for such product. There are several accredited organizations that perform listing services such as IAPMO/UPC, ICC, NSF, CSA, and UL to name a few. Once the product has been approved by the listing agency, their mark of approval will be placed on the product. This mark is a clear identifier for the inspector or Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) that the product meets the standard and the requirements of the plumbing code. Without third-party approval, the AHJ does not know if the product meets equivalency for quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety as required by the code.


Robert Doehl, Building Official

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