

# Manitoba Plumbing Code Updates

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# Background

- Effective **January 1, 2024**, Manitoba will be adopting the 2020 edition of the National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC) published by the National Research Council (NRC).
- In coordination with Manitoba's Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) partners, the national model codes are now freely available online through the NRC's website:

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/certifications-evaluations-standards/codes-canada/codes-canada-publications>.

- The 2020 NPC is adopted with amendments under the Manitoba Plumbing Code (MPC) regulation which is available on the Manitoba Laws website:

<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2023/080.php?lang=en>

# 2020 NPC Updates

- The 2020 NPC makes updates in several areas:
  - Fibrocement pipe and fittings are included as alternatives to asbestos-cement materials, which were removed from the National Plumbing Code 2015 as an interim change.
  - Other new plumbing materials are added as options, including polyethylene of raised temperature (PE-RT) tube and cellular core polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe and their fittings.
  - The maximum temperature for water discharging from shower heads or into bathtubs is reduced in healthcare facilities and seniors' residences to prevent scalding.
  - Gate valves and screw caps, which require manual intervention, are removed as options for backflow protection to reduce the risk of basement flooding.
  - Design requirements for non-potable rainwater harvesting systems are introduced to facilitate the collection and use of rainwater.

# Other Updates to the MPC

- Manitoba is skipping the 2015 edition of the NPC, which introduced provisions for stainless steel piping and welded joints as well as electrical insulation for supports of stainless steel pipes.
- The 2015 NPC also introduced water use efficiency for plumbing fixtures, supply fittings and shower heads.
- Manitoba previously had amendments that regulated water use at differing flow rates which are being removed.
- The changes in water use efficiency requirements are summarized in the following tables. Note that Manitoba specific flow rates for pre-rinse spray valves and laundry tub faucets are removed.

# Other Updates to the MPC

| Previous vs. 2015 NPC Supply Fitting Water Flow Rates |              |               |                     |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Supply Fitting  | Previous MPC | 2015/2020 NPC | Variance            |
| Private Lavatory                                      | 5.7 L/min    | 5.7 L/min     | Same                |
| Public Lavatory                                       | 5.7 L/min    | 1.9 L/min     | 3.8 L/min decrease  |
| Kitchen Supply Fitting                                | 8.4 L/min    | 8.3 L/min     | 0.01 L/min decrease |
| Shower Heads  | 6.6 L/min    | 7.6 L/min     | 1.0 L/min increase  |
| Pre Rinse Spray Valve                                 | 6.1 L/min    | N/A           | N/A                 |
| Laundry tub faucet                                    | 15.1 L/min   | N/A           | N/A                 |

| Current vs. 2015/2020 NPC Water Usage Per Flush Cycle |              |               |                  |
|---|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Fixture   | Previous MPC | 2015/2020 NPC | Variance         |
| Residential Water Closet                              | 6.0 Lpf      | 4.8 Lpf       | 1.2 Lpf decrease |
| Non Residential Water Closet                          | 6.0 Lpf      | 6.0 Lpf       | Same             |
| Urinals   | 3.8 Lpf      | 1.9 Lpf       | 1.9 Lpf decrease |

# Code Development

Under CFTA commitments Manitoba adopts the national model construction codes and is limited in its ability to make amendments.

Anyone interested in contributing to the national code development process can visit:

<https://ccbfc-cccbpi.ca/en/get-involved/>

The NRC also offers an e-mail newsletter and alert subscription service for those who want to stay notified about changes at the national level:

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/subscribe/>