

# Bulletin: On-Site Constructed Showers



Bulletin # 24-01

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## Purpose

The following bulletin is for providing information on the minimum requirements for on-site constructed showers within the City of Kelowna (the City).

## Background

The current plumbing code in BC lacks detail on the acceptable prescriptive requirements for on-site constructed showers and simply states "Every shower shall be constructed and arranged so water can't leak through the walls and floor."

*This Bulletin is for informational purposes only with respect to regulated plumbing work in the City of Kelowna which falls within the City's jurisdiction and is not intended as guidance outside of the City's jurisdiction.*

## Installation Requirement Options

### Manufactured Shower Systems

Materials and products supplied by a manufacturer as an approved shower system, typically covered by warranties, must be installed as required by the manufacturer and installation instructions provided with the product. Material or product modifications beyond those provided for in the installation instructions must be approved by the manufacturer in writing.

### Shower liner

Where showers are constructed on-site with water proofing materials that meet standard ANSI A118.10 without the benefits of being an engineered system. Installers may follow the early Plumbing Officials Association of British Columbia Interpretation #2008.

### Barrier Free Showers (Residential)

Showers being constructed without curbs must provide for the minimum slope from the drain to the edge of the shower area of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " per foot. It is recommended that the minimum interior dimension of the shower be capable of encompassing a 30" diameter circle and that water proofing material extend a minimum of 4" beyond threshold.

**Building & Permitting 1435**

Water Street Kelowna, BC

V1Y 1J4 TEL 250-469-8960

FAX 250-862-3314

## Inspection & Testing Requirements

BC Plumbing Code 2.3.6 requires tests and inspections of drainage or venting systems. Additionally, it requires that after every fixture that is installed and before any part of the drainage system or venting system is placed in operation, a final test shall be carried out when requested.

As custom shower systems are constructed on-site the City requires the installers to request a "Shower Liner Inspection" prior to the installation of any tile as the liner or system must be approved. For a shower fixture inspection this will be considered the Final inspection, no further testing is required.

The inspection requires that the shower floor and receptor(s) are tested for watertightness. The drain from the shower must be plugged with a test ball and the shower base filled with potable water to the level of the rough threshold. If the shower is to be curbless, a temporary threshold must be constructed to retain the test water to level not less than 2" deep measured at the receptor. The water shall be retained under a water test to the flood level rim for a minimum of 24hrs prior to the requested inspection. The date and time the test was started are to be recorded on-site visible for the inspector along with the name and contact number of individual responsible for the test.

Where the shower system is not a recognized manufactured system, installers must, upon request provide details on all related materials as well as testing to show that any on-site constructed shower system meets the intent of the code and will operate leak free over the intended life of the fixture.

### **Disclaimer:**

This bulletin provides for a process to ensure minimum plumbing code requirements are met for regulated work that falls under the City of Kelowna Plumbing Regulation Bylaw. Where work is completed by contractors other than the plumbing contractor named on the permit, which falls outside of the scope of the BC plumbing code, this work becomes the responsibility of the building contractor named on the building permit. Building contractors must ensure any individuals performing work such as tile and liner installation comply with all necessary City bylaws and are qualified for the work performed. The City of Kelowna on-site constructed shower inspection confirms only that minimum BC plumbing code requirements for installation and testing have been met on the date of inspection. The City of Kelowna assumes no risk of liability related to any future leak(s) or product failure(s) associated with any aspect of the custom on-site constructed shower.