

Plumbing Approvals

All plumbing work in Queensland is regulated by the State Government legislative requirements and is categorised as:

- regulated work
- minor work, namely:
 - notifiable minor work
 - other minor work
- unregulated work

Regulated Work

Regulated work is defined by exclusion. Any plumbing and drainage work that is not defined as 'minor work' or 'unregulated work', is therefore regulated work. You must be a licensed person to perform regulated work and ensure you only perform the regulated work covered by your license (eg. A licensed drainer can perform regulated drainage work).

All regulated work must be assessed by Council for compliance with the technical standards for plumbing and drainage. Prior to the commencement of the regulated work you must obtain a compliance approval (approval of plans) for the proposed work.

Council is required to assess the regulated work at particular stages, it is the licensed person's responsibility to arrange these mandatory inspections. Any licensed persons who perform plumbing and drainage work must ensure it is compliant with the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003.

Council will issue a compliance certificate upon satisfactory completion of the regulated work (approval of work).

Minor work

Minor work is plumbing and drainage work that you can perform without Council approval, however the work must be performed by a licensed person. There are two categories of minor work:

- notifiable minor work
- other minor work

Notifiable Minor Work

On completion of the work, a Form 4 (Notifiable Minor Work) is required to be submitted to Council within 20 business days of completing the work. Council may decide to assess the work for compliance with the technical standards.

Notifiable minor work includes:

- emergency work

- repairing or replacing a plumbing or drainage pipe that is broken or damaged, **but not if** the work involves repairing a drain at a connection point or replacing more than six (6) metres of pipe or three (3) metres of a drain
- other work of a minor nature related to, and reasonably necessary for, repairing plumbing or drainage
- work necessary for replacing a tempering valve, water heater, cistern, pump or water meter
- work necessary for maintaining, repairing or replacing a backflow prevention device or thermostatic mixing valve

Other Minor Work

“Other Minor Work” must be performed by a licensed person, but does not require notification to Council.

Other minor work includes:

- work necessary for maintaining, repairing or replacing a fitting or fixture
- work necessary for maintaining or repairing an apparatus other than a backflow prevention device, thermostatic mixing valve, tempering valve, water heater, cistern, pump or water meter
- work necessary for maintaining, repairing or replacing fire hydrants or fire hose reels
- unblocking a pipe that is sanitary plumbing or sanitary drainage.

Unregulated work

Unregulated work is plumbing and drainage work that does not require Council approval or notification. No license is required to perform this work, namely:

- for sanitary plumbing and sanitary drainage:
 - cleaning or maintaining ground level grates to traps on sanitary drains
 - replacing caps to ground level inspection openings on sanitary drains
 - maintaining an above or below ground irrigation system for the disposal of effluent from an on-site sewerage facility
- for water plumbing:
 - installing or maintaining an irrigation or lawn watering system downstream from an isolating valve, tap or backflow prevention device on the supply pipe for the irrigation or lawn watering system
 - replacing a jumper valve or washer in a tap
 - changing a shower head
 - replacing, in a water closet cistern, a drop valve washer, float valve washer or suction cup rubber.

Work on stormwater drainage is considered to be unregulated work.

Information required for plumbing applications

If you require further information about plumbing applications, contact your local Plumbing Services office.

fact sheet