

# Definitions

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In the last two articles “Rules” and “Basic Principles” we discussed areas of the code that are often overlooked. Section 10.03 Definitions is another place answers to many code questions can be found. Following are a few important definitions.

The most important definition is Plumbing. This will explain when our code and license requirements begin. For drainage it is a point beginning ten feet outside from the inside face of the foundation and running into the building structure. Currently the actual meaning of the ten feet is in question. New revisions will detail the ten feet is ten lineal feet of pipe. Rather than the former interpretation of ten feet around the building like an envelope, for water the code begins on the house side of the metering device, or if none, the main control valve immediately inside the foundation. This is why we do not permit, inspect, or enforce water mains.

Dedicated Systems do not abide by the 10 foot rule. The drainage for these systems include, special wastes, gas and oil separator systems, grease waste, gray water, and waste water recycling. All drainage and venting within the property line for these systems must be installed by the licensed plumber.

Air Break Drainage System, Air Gap Drainage System, and Air Gap Water Distribution System. All three are explained in this section. Many plumbers forget the difference. One way of remembering is there is only one Air Break (below the rim) for drainage. Gaps are above the rim.

Bathroom (residential) - A room equipped with a bathtub or shower stall, toilet and a lavatory basin or any combination thereof.

Bathroom (half bath) - A room equipped with a toilet and lavatory basin.

The key words in both of these definitions are: **A ROOM**. A bathroom is just that - a room - the fixtures must be in the room. I have seen many cases where the lavatory is outside the bathroom? This is not correct and does not meet the intent of our code. Not to mention it is unsanitary.

Dwellings, single multiple, two family - The important thing to remember about these definitions is that multiple is three or more families. This was changed in our code about 10 years ago to be brought in line with the Building Code and other National Standards. Codes for multiple family structures are more strict. In plumbing you should be aware of fire stopping when using P.V.C. in a multiple family building.

Hot Water - Water at a temperature of at least 120 degrees f. There has been much debate about hot water temperatures. Many feel that 120 degrees is too low. Tests have proven hot water must be at least 120 to kill bacteria. However precautions must be made at individual fixtures to lower temperatures for safety. Like showers 112, and public lavs 110.

Private or Private Use. In the classification of plumbing fixtures, private shall apply to fixtures in residences, apartments, condominiums, and to private guest rooms in hotel and motels.

Public or Public Use. The classification of plumbing fixtures. Public shall apply to every fixture not defined under private or private use.

Both of these definitions are very important and relatively simple. Just remember if it is not residential it is public.

Unisex / Handicapped Toilet Room - A room containing one toilet and one lavatory available for use by either sex. Any unisex toilet room or handicapped unisex toilet room may only contain one toilet and one lavatory period. No urinals, no showers, no double lavs, no utility sinks, no nothing, it's a no brainer.

There are many other important definitions, check them out. When you are searching for the answer to a code question, always check Basic Principles, Definitions, and Rules. Chances are good the answer is right there.