

SUBJECT: Waterless Urinals

Question:

Does the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code allow installation of waterless urinals?

Answer:

No it does not. There is an “exception” to Section 601.1 that has been misconstrued by some who believed the exception included waterless urinals. In reality the exception to Section 601.1 addresses secondary fixtures such as floor sinks, trough drains, and other fixtures that, by virtue of the limitations of their usage do not require a dedicated water source in order to maintain a sanitary condition. These fixtures are limited to receiving “clear water waste” that does not require a water flush or wash-down to remove materials that would otherwise foul their surface. A secondary waste receptor that serves a culinary sink is an example of a fixture that receives clear water waste. An independent water supply is not required for such fixtures, thus the exception to 601.1.

Section 405.2 of the 2006 UPC specifically prohibits the installation of urinals with walls that are “not thoroughly washed at each discharge”. Sections 211.0 (2) and (3) require “an approved water seal trap” and “any plumbing fixture or waste discharging receptor or device that is not supplied water sufficient to FLUSH and maintain the receptor in a clean condition” is considered to be an “insanitary” fixture. Section 101.5.2 [Health and Safety] requires elimination or alleviation of any “insanitary condition”, which by definition would include a urinal that cannot be flushed.

Taken in combination it is evident that waterless urinals would not be included under the exception to Section 601.1. Urinals are required by the Plumbing Code to have a water-sealed trap, and to be plumbed with water so they can be flushed in order to maintain them in a sanitary condition.

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