



Homeowner Plumbing Permit Rules

Generally, Tennessee law requires all plumbing work to be performed by licensed, bonded and insured plumbing contractors and their employees.

Homeowners, within strict limitations, are exempt from plumbing licensing requirements in order to secure plumbing permits to install, alter, or replace the homeowner's plumbing system at the homeowner's principal single-family residence provided:

1. The residence is not a newly-constructed home, a home in the process of being constructed, a manufactured home, a condemned house, a townhouse, a condominium or a fire-damaged residence.
2. Such work is done by the homeowner and/or immediate family, such as parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and children.
3. The residence is owned and presently occupied by the homeowner and all basic utilities (lights, water, sewer) are in service.

The same homeowner(s) may not be issued more than one (1) plumbing permit in any five-year period at different locations.

When an owner submits a Plumbing Permit Application, that person must sign an affidavit that they own and occupy the residence and that they personally and physically will perform all of the plumbing work, including the laying out of such work.

It is illegal for an owner to install plumbing on property that is rented, leased, or occupied by others or to allow unlicensed contractors to perform the work. Homeowners found to be in violation of this ordinance will be issued a Stop Work Order and may have services removed from structure until work is re-permitted by a duly licensed plumbing contractor and has been re-inspected by the city.

All new work must comply with the most recently adopted City of Knoxville and International Plumbing Codes. In the event the homeowner's work is found to be unacceptable, the Homeowner Plumbing Permit shall be voided by the chief plumbing or field plumbing inspector.

To apply for a Homeowner Plumbing Permit, you will need the following:

- A valid driver's license showing your home address
- Complete description of work to be done
- Cash, check or credit card to pay permit fee