

Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington State – 2024 Update of the 2003 Edition

References:

[WAC 246-366-060](#): Plumbing, water supply, and fixtures

[Chapter 51-56 WAC](#): STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE 2021 EDITION OF THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE

[WAC 51-50-2902](#): Section 2902—Minimum plumbing facilities. STATE BUILDING CODE ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE 2021 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

[Chapter 246-290 WAC](#): GROUP A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

[WAC 246-290-490](#): Cross-connection control.

[WAC 51-56-0600](#): Chapter 6—Water supply and distribution.

[Cross-Connection Control Manual, February 2003 \(epa.gov\)](#)

[Drinking Water Systems | Washington State Department of Health](#)

[Chapter 173-219 WAC](#): Reclaimed Water

Department of Labor and Industries [Safety and Health Core Rules](#) WAC 296-800

D. Plumbing, Water Supply, and Fixtures		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/ Recommended Practice	Review Plan	Reason for Change
D 001	At a minimum Plumbing shall be sized, installed, and maintained in accordance with the state building (UBC) and plumbing (UPC) codes. Local code requirements shall prevail when requirements are more stringent or in excess of the state building codes.	246-366-060 (1) 060246-290 UPC		x	
D 002	The water supply system for a school shall be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated in accordance with WAC 246-290. NOTE: the Uniform Building Code (UBC) requires compliance with the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)	246-366-060 (2) 246-290 RCW 19.27		x	
D 003	Water from drinking fountains shall clear the nozzle to allow safe and healthy drinking access. Schools shall follow cross-connection and backflow prevention methods outlined in the State Rules.	246-290-490 51-40-0603 UPC 603.0 UPC 415.0		x	
D 004	Vacuum breakers Backflow Preventers: Assemblies (i.e., anti-siphon devices, air-gap separations, reduced pressure devices, or double check valves) are required on water outlets with either threaded, serrated, or quick-coupling nozzles to prevent cross-contamination of the drinking water supply.	246-290-490 UPC 602 , 603-0		x	
D 005	Soap shall be provided for all hand washing facilities. Liquid or powdered soap in dispensers should be used.	246-366-060		x	
D 006	Single-service towels shall be provided for all hand washing facilities. Common use towels are prohibited. Warm air dryers may be used in place of single-service towels. Roller-type cloth towel dispensers are also acceptable. Although warm air dryers are allowed in WAC 246-366-060, they are not recommended. Warm air dryers can suspend and spread airborne infectious particles.	246-366-060		x	
D 007	Toilet paper shall be available and located adjacent to each toilet fixture.	246-366-060 296-24-12007		x	

D. Plumbing, Water Supply, and Fixtures		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/ Recommended Practice	Plan Review	Reason for Change
D 008	Toilet and hand washing facilities shall be accessible for use during school hours and scheduled events.	246-366-060		x	
D 009	Hand washing facilities shall be provided with hot water at a maximum of 120 degrees Fahrenheit (F). <u>If the hand washing water is delivered at only one temperature it should be 95-105°F for comfortable and thorough hand washing.</u>	246-366-060 51-46 51-47		x	<u>Code was written before single source faucets when hot and cold water could be mixed for preference. 120°F is for scald protection and too hot for hand washing. Cold water is too uncomfortable and hot water is required in WAC 246-366.</u>
D 010	Hand operated, self-closing faucets, when installed, shall provide ten seconds of running water. Self-closing faucets are required by the plumbing code in new construction and also when faucets are replaced. <u>NOTE: The Food Code requires that kitchen handwashing sinks have hot water at least 100°F and that "a self-closing or metering faucet must provide a flow of water for at least fifteen seconds without the need to reactivate the faucet."</u> <u>WAC 246-215-05210(3)</u>	246-366-060(d) 51-56-0400 4651-47		x	<u>Need to check UPC reference</u>
D 011	Showers with hot and cold water controls shall be provided for all physical education classes in grades 9-12. Hot water temperature shall be maintained above 100 degrees F (for sanitation) and below 120 degrees F (to prevent scalding.)	246-366-060(4)(a)		x	
<u>D 011a</u>	<u>Note: It is recommended that three to six student showers are provided in each student locker room, with at least one ADA compliant shower provided for each gender. For large gym classes or use by large athletic groups, increase the number of showers to provide one shower for every eight students.</u>			<u>x</u>	
D 012	Drying areas, when provided, shall be adjacent to showers and locker rooms and have impervious, non-skid (non-slip) floors. NOTE: Carpeting in wet areas retains moisture that can lead to mold formation and/or the spread of bacteria <u>and fungus; e.g., "athlete's foot," etc.</u>	246-366-060		x	
D 013	Walls in shower rooms shall be impervious up to the shower head height. Upper walls and ceilings in shower rooms shall have smooth and easily <u>cleanable washable</u> surfaces.	246-366-060		x	
D 014	Locker rooms and dressing rooms shall be impervious, non-skid (non-slip) floors.	246-366-060		x	
D 015	Walls in locker rooms and dressing rooms shall have smooth and easily <u>cleanable washable</u> surfaces.	246-366-060		x	
D 016	School supplied towels shall be for individual use only and shall be laundered after each use.	246-366-060		x	

D. Plumbing, Water Supply, and Fixtures		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/Recommended Practice	Plan Review	Reason for Change
D 017	Locker and dressing room floors should be equipped with drains to eliminate standing water.	246-366-060		x	
D 018	NOTE: Department of Health website contains applicable rules on developing water supplies, cross-connections, approval of water systems and the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund (loans). Website:http://www.doh.wa.gov/ohp/dw/	246-366-060		x	
D 018a	NOTE: Cross-connection guidance is available from DOH at the website above . EPA's Office of Water Programs Water Supply Division website: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/guidance/data.html			x	
D 019	Restrooms are "gender specific" unless one fixture restrooms (one toilet and one handwashing sink) to provide minimum standard of privacy.	IBC 2901/2902 51-50-2902 OSPI and DOH		x	
<u>D 019a</u>	<u>Note: New building code language: Separate facilities shall not be required where rooms having both water closets and lavatory fixtures are designed for use by both sexes and privacy for water closets are installed in accordance with Section 1210.3.1 (IBC). Urinals shall be located in an area visually separated from the remainder of the facility or each urinal that is provided shall be located in a stall.</u>	<u>51-50-2902.2(7)</u>		<u>x</u>	
D 020	Staff/adults should shall have completely separate restrooms apart from elementary school children.	OSPI and DOH	<u>OSPI and DOH</u>	x	
D 021	Young children (preschool through kindergarten and/or 1st grade) should have restrooms attached to the classrooms or close to their classes for their exclusive use.	OSPI and DOH	<u>OSPI and DOH</u>	x	
D 022	No fountain/hand washing combination sinks should be available in bathrooms/restrooms. This presents a risk of fecal contamination of the fountain and related issues.	OSPI and DOH	<u>OSPI and DOH</u>	x	
<u>D 023</u>	<u>Emergency Showers and Emergency Eye Washes should have plumbed drains. Emergency showers should have a contained area sufficient to hold and direct the water when activated to the floor drain. Emergency Eye Wash basins should be directly connected to a drain pipe. This will facilitate the requirement for activating them weekly and prevent wet floors, flooding, slips, and falls.</u>		<u>OSPI and DOH</u> <u>296-800-15030, 15035, 15040</u> <u>296-800-22025, 22030</u>	<u>x</u>	
<u>D 024</u>	<u>Acid neutralization tanks in science labs are not recommended. These tanks are prone to blockage and inadvertent disposal of acidic wastewater above discharge limits.</u>		<u>OSPI and DOH</u>	<u>x</u>	
<u>D 025</u>	<u>Reclaimed water can be used for toilet flushing and landscape irrigation, but it must have separate purple pipes for distribution, they must be labeled, and must never be cross connected to drinking water pipes.</u>	<u>173-219-330</u> <u>173-219-360</u>		<u>X</u>	