



Building Department Policy

Montana Code Annotated 2021
37-69-101 Definitions (7)

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37-69-101 Definitions
Water Service Lines
Release Date: June 1, 2024

The following interpretation, policy or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code alternate to specific projects may vary.

Montana Code Annotated 37-69-101 Definitions (7)

(7) (a) "Plumbing system" means all potable water supply and distribution pipes, plumbing fixtures and traps, drainage, and vent pipes, and building drains, including their respective joints and connections, devices, receptacles, and appurtenances within the property lines of any premises, up to 20 feet beyond the building foundation line, and includes potable water piping, water heaters, and vents for the premises.

- In Montana, the plumbing code encompasses the Montana Code Annotated (MCAs), Administrative Rules of Montana (ARMs) and adopted nationally recognized codes.
- The hierarchy of these portions of the plumbing code are Law- (MCA), Rule – ARM and then Code. If there is a conflict between any of these portions, the highest portion's standards supersede the lower ranking portion. In other words, the definitions in MCA overrule any contradicting definition in code. In Montana, the plumbing System stops 20 feet outside the building.
- **37-69-301. License required.** (1) *Except as provided in 37-69-102, a person working at the field of plumbing in this state, either as a master plumber or as a journeyman plumber, shall first obtain a license as provided in Title 37, chapter 69, part 3.*

Official Policy:

The licensed plumber that is registered with the State of Montana is responsible for the installation, inspecting and testing of the water service line, trace wire, sleeve, and the backflow device from 20' outside of the building up to and including either the water meter or backflow device that is located inside of the building.

If you have questions about whether this code solution applies to your project, please contact the Plumbing Inspector with the City of Missoula.