

Friends of the Plumbing Trade and Industry,

With the turn down in the construction Industry we, as inspectors, must be looking down the road to bigger and better times. I look at this time as a great opportunity to continue to educate the Plumbing contractors, Journeymen and, of course, the apprentice. We all know the short comings are in the Plumbing Code. If it challenges us, you can only imagine how they feel.

I think the best thing the State of Ohio did was to initiate the Contractor license through the O.C.I.L.B. (Ohio Construction Industry License Board). The requirement of ten CEU hours forces contractors to get minimal education. Some firms and government agencies are satisfied with minimum. My personal feeling is we should take every opportunity to learn all we can, nothing wrong with being on top of your game.

My compliments to Ms Carol Ross for running a great program at O.C.I.L.B. and providing the opportunity to open the O.C.I.L.B. requirements to the residential field. Here in Mansfield/Richland County we are in the process of making it mandatory for all residential plumbing contractors to be O.C.I.L.B certified on January 1, 2010. We have been able to do this with the complete cooperation of all Plumbing Contractors, even those not certified. At our last group meeting we had seven non-certified plumbing contractors. We have offered free Plumbing code classes and had 24 sign up. As this class draws to an end, we have 15 with almost perfect attendance. Thus, if you offer, they will come.

I am in hopes the State will go forward with an O.C.I.L.B. License for Journeymen. This would give young people a vehicle to prove they are a Journeyman and not just a hired hand. This is a Trade we should be proud of and we need to let people know how important it is to have good plumbing to continue to protect the health of the nation.

Let's not worry about how to survive this storm, but let's learn to dance in the rain.

Dean

President OAPI

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RAINWATER HARVESTING / REUSE OF WATER

“Green” is the fashion today, but is it just another fad? Only time will tell. Our newly elected president has set the tone for an environmentally friendly “green” initiative in America.

In everyday life, most of us, on some scale, have made a better effort to do the little things: turn off a light when not in a room, recycle the newspaper, and maybe even purchase a new more fuel-efficient car. All of these small efforts add up and if nothing else makes us feel good as if we are

doing our part. However the good “green” feeling quickly fades for a plumbing inspector when a homeowner, with the best of intentions, wants to harvest rain water in a barrel or tank and pipe it back inside the house for re-use.

Most plumbing inspectors agree that it is a great idea to use an outside rain barrel for watering a garden as long as it is properly labeled as non-potable. Talk of piping non-potable water back into the house and you’ll have plumbing inspectors and water purveyors throwing their hands in the air, and mumbling about cross connections in the house and backflow into the city main etc.... “The Plumber Protects the Health of a Nation” is our motto! No plumbing inspector would encourage any cross-connection to the potable water. We have come a long way from outhouses and questionable drinking water. Why would we go back to the days of questionable drinking water? Why pipe non-potable water back into our homes and run the risk of accidentally drinking this water. Can we become more environmentally- friendly without compromising our safe drinking water?

Maybe it is time to get a fresh look at this issue. Drought stricken areas of the west initiated policy on this issue years ago. Arizona, California, and Texas have some well written regulations concerning the reuse of water. Instead of just labeling the pipe it must be painted purple. These regulations make it clear for homeowners and inspectors how recycled water may be used.

In Hamilton County the number of commercial and residential customers requesting to install some type of re-use water system has increased. I don’t think the “green movement” is leaving anytime soon. Ohio does not have any code concerning the reuse of water. The ICC has Appendix C, Gray Water Recycling Systems; but Ohio has not yet adopted this section. Plumbing inspectors need to check their local health regulations to see if their jurisdiction has any regulations in place addressing the reuse of water. If not, you may want to consider drafting your own. By being proactive you can help maintain our safe drinking and continue to “Protect the Health of a Nation”.

Lisa Humble

Director of Plumbing for Hamilton County



Legislative Updates

OHIO HOUSE BILL 2 Quote from News Release from National Fire Protection Association news letter. Advocates in Ohio stripped a state bill of legislative language that would have prohibited a state board and local communities making important decisions about a wide range of fire safety requirement- including the use of home fire sprinklers. A recent amendment to the Ohio House Bill 2 would have taken several steps to prevent the implementation of important, life-safety fire safety requirements. The Ohio legislative language would have effectively remove significant authority from the Ohio Board of Building Standards - the board that has long formulated, adopted and amended the state’s building and construction code and given that authority to the state’s Residential Construction Advisory Committee. At the same time, the amendment would have

increased the influence of the Ohio Home Builders' Association on appointments to the Residential Construction Advisory Committee. The proposed language also would have prohibited any jurisdiction in the state from adopting any fire safety provision that would be stronger than the statewide code requirements. "This amendment would have severely limited the ability of the Ohio Board of Building Standards to adopt requirements for home fire sprinklers and other important safety advances in Ohio," said Assistant Chief Bob Bates, Madison Township Fire Department and the legislative committee chair for the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association. "When the facts about this amendment became clear, the fire service work quickly to stop it, preserving the ability of the Board Of Building Standards and local communities to make decisions based on what is in the best interests of public safety."

Senate Bill #14 to require the licensure of home inspectors and to create the Ohio Home Inspector Board to regulate the licensure and performance of home inspector.

Residential Licensing: Legislation to be introduced possibly this session.

Article Published May 1, 2009 Toledoblade

Toledo mayoral candidate proposed eliminating some permitting regulations and suggested other steps to rejuvenate Toledo's neighborhoods and encourage investment and home ownership. He proposed doing away with regulation that require licensed contractors to perform renovation on investment homes, such as installing windows, roofs, vinyl siding and plumbing. He said under his plan, the city would issue a permit that would provide do-it-yourself investment remodelers with a "coach" to make sure the work complies with city Codes. Would still require licensed contractors for electrical and furnace installation.

Legislation Committee- Ronald Branson Tom Spayth