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Water Treatment Appliances

After speaking to Texas Commission of Environmental Quality and Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, the City of Converse will immediately begin enforcing the following:

Question: Can a water treatment specialist legally install hose bibs and yard lines from the untreated water supply to a water softener?

Answer: Based on conversations with Mr. Terry Thompson, Special Assistant, in the TCEQ's Occupational Licenses and Registrations Division (512-239-6095), email terry.thompson@tceq.texas.gov, 30 Texas Administrative Code, Subchapter H, Water Treatment Specialists, , Section 30.267(1) - Definitions states, "Installation of water treatment appliances – Includes connecting the appliances to all necessary utility connections in residential, commercial, or industrial facilities." (Effective date September 27, 2007). Such installations must meet minimum ordinances and or state codes as adopted by the inspecting authority. This rule does not address installations of additional appurtenances such as additional yard lines or hose bibs. Therefore, it would be in city's jurisdiction by ordinance or policy to allow the Water Treatment Specialist to perform such work. Therefore, beginning immediately, **the City of Converse will require a Texas Licensed Plumbing Contractor to do all work not immediately associated with the operation of the water treatment appliance.**

Question: Can a water treatment specialist legally install a P-trap in a drain waste vent system?

Answer: Yes, as long as the installation meets the minimum local ordinances and or state codes as adopted. This, per adopted code, would require any installation to comply with testing of alterations as required by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. The AHJ would determine what, if any, additional measures may be required.

Question: Does the water treatment appliance permit cover the additional yard-lines and hose bibs?

Answer: No. A separate plumbing permit is required for these items.

Contractors have suggested remedies to the exterior P-Trap installation such as an atmospheric air admittance device at a sink to allow for discharge into a sink tail piece or at any other approved discharge point such as the washing machine where an air gap can be assured

The City of Converse will **immediately stop** allowing the installations of P-Traps at clean outs for the following reasons:

1. The grade or below grade level installations allow for storm water infiltration into the public sewer system which **will** cost the city tax payers additional revenues to treat this effluent.
2. These installations cannot assure the P-trap seals will be unaffected by pneumatic pressure differentials due to sewage flow. **(Layman's terms: This will allow sewer gases and bacteria to escape into the environment at other than ideal locations as permitted by code through the siphoning of the P-trap water seal below the trap elbow.)** The typical installation being found is a P-Trap sized at 1 ½ or 2 inches with a horizontal branch to a new Sanitary Tee installed in the neck of the existing non-directional cleanout. The nearest vent may be as much as 20 feet on the interior of the home from this location. Most of the installations of cleanouts in Converse are near or adjacent to windows or doors which could allow sewage by-products to enter into the home and in fact pose potential health and life safety issues to our residents.

