



02-01-09

**NEWS FROM THE PLUMBING INSPECTORS  
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Division**

The following information is provided from the Plumbing Inspections Department of the City of Winston-Salem. All news letters that have been sent out can be accessed online @ [www.inspectnet.org](http://www.inspectnet.org) Look for Newsletters, Plumbing Monthly.

Looking for Inspector Territory Maps? Go to [www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Inspections/Articles/FormsAndFees](http://www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Inspections/Articles/FormsAndFees) .

**2009 NC Plumbing Code**

The New Year is here and along with it the 2009 NC Plumbing Code. A transition period is in affect between January 1<sup>st</sup>. and June 30th. from the 2006 NC Plumbing Code to the 2009 NC Plumbing Code. All building permits bought on and after July 1<sup>st</sup>. will be using the 2009 NC Plumbing Code. To order your copy of the 2009 NC Plumbing Code Book go to [www.ncdoi.com/osfm](http://www.ncdoi.com/osfm). Look for **Code Book Sales**.

**Questions from contractors:**

**Q: In the new 2009 NC Plumbing Code, have the requirements changed for the discharge piping from a temperature and pressure relief valve?**

**A: NO,**

**The requirements have not changed however the wording has.  
The 2006 NC Plumbing Code is in more of a “Paragraph” style format. It looks and reads like this**

**504.6 Relief outlet waste.** The outlet of a pressure, temperature or other relief valve shall not be directly connected to the drainage system.

**504.6.1 Discharge.** The relief valve shall discharge full size to a safe place of disposal such as within 6 inches (152 mm) of the floor, outside the building or an indirect waste receptor. The discharge pipe shall not have any trapped sections and shall have a visible air gap or air gap fitting located in the same room as the water heater. The outlet end of the discharge pipe shall not be threaded and such discharge pipe shall not have a valve or tee installed. Relief valve piping shall be piped independent of other equipment drains or relief valve discharge piping to the disposal point. Such pipe shall be installed in a manner that does not cause personal injury to occupants in the immediate area or structural damage to the building.

**While the 2009 NC Plumbing Code is in more of a “CHECK LIST” style format. It looks and reads like this**

**504.6 Requirements for discharge piping.** The discharge piping serving a pressure relief valve, temperature relief valve or combination thereof shall:

1. Not be directly connected to the drainage system.
2. Discharge through an air gap located in the same room as the water heater, either on the floor, into an indirect was receptor or outdoors.
3. Not be smaller than the diameter of the outlet of the valve served and shall discharge full size to the air gap.
4. Serve a single relief device and shall not connect to piping serving any other relief device or equipment.
5. Deleted.
6. Discharge in a manner that does not cause personal injury or structural damage.
7. Discharge to a termination point that is readily observable by the building occupants.
8. Not be trapped.
9. Be installed so as to flow by gravity.
10. Not terminate more than 6 inches (152 mm) above the floor or waste receptor.
11. Not have a threaded connection at the end of such piping.
12. Not have valves or tee fittings.
13. Be constructed of those materials listed in Section 605.4 or materials tested, rated and approved for such use in accordance with ASME A112.4.1.

I believe that section 504.6 of the 2009 NC Plumbing Code will be a more efficient reference tool for these types of installations.

**If you have items you wish to discuss please e-mail me and we will respond to your questions; and also we will include what we can in our monthly newsletter. Thank you for all your comments and concerns.**

Please send any comments to [Jamesr@cityofws.org](mailto:Jamesr@cityofws.org) .

Thank you

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