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**Water heaters must be installed according to the manufacturers installation instructions.**

1. A listed **fuel gas shut off valve** is required to be installed in the same room, within **six feet** of each appliance or device, before the union, connector or quick disconnect device. A listed **shut off valve** shall be installed immediately ahead of each pressure regulator. A sediment trap (dirt leg) is required to be installed before the appliance or any control devices, such as regulators. Place the dirt leg at a change of direction in the piping, such as from vertical to horizontal. Pressure test tees may be required before and after regulators.
2. **New fuel gas piping** (where applicable) **must be air tested**. Please call when you have the gas piping completed and proven the work to hold a 25 psi for 30 minute air test, and this test is ready to be observed. Where the piping is of a minor nature "soaping" or using a combustible fuels "sniffer" is acceptable. Be aware that the installation of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) for gas piping purposes may require the tube to be grounded electrically to protect against lightning strikes. Please refer to the CSST manufacturers instructions.
3. **Metal Chimneys:** Please follow the manufacturer's guidelines for the installation of metal chimneys. Mechanical code requirements are as follows. Double wall type "B" chimneys require one inch minimum clearance to combustibles. This is commonly the type of chimney pipe that passes up from the basement through the roof. Check the installation manual of the appliance for the requirement of a drip tee at the base of the stack.
- 3a. Single wall type "C" connectors require six inches minimum clearance to combustibles, including gypsum wallboard. Type "C" pipe is commonly used as the connector from the water heater draft hood to the stack. Please observe proper slope guidelines, total lengths and maximum number of elbows for connectors. This may be very critical with the new style water heaters.
- 3b. Chimney sizing limitations specify the chimney shall not be more than two sizes greater than the connector. Example: A three inch diameter water heater draft hood and connector shall not be vented into a chimney larger than five inches in diameter.
4. Existing **transite** chimneys must be approved for re-use. Transite chimneys that have deteriorated to an unsafe condition must be replaced with either a type B chimney or an approved metal liner must be installed. **Caution:** transite chimneys may contain asbestos.
5. Where the water heater requires **electric** connections, please employ a **MN licenced electrical contractor** where required by law and have the electrical work inspected by the electrical inspector. Call 507-449-8870
6. A water shut off valve is required on the inlet side of the water heater. A minimum 3/4 inch nominal pipe size is required for the water inlet and water outlet of water heaters. Commercial installations may require larger pipe sizes.
7. An approved relief valve and relief valve discharge tube is required. The discharge tube must be an approved water piping material, and extend to within a minimum of 18" measured to the floor. **Caution;** not all plastic pipe is approved.
8. New water heaters are sometimes taller than the old water heater, please use caution when deciding how to make the new water heater fit the existing piping configuration. Notching a structural component of your house to make the new water heater fit can cause failure of that component. It is more advisable to alter the piping than it is to notch a structural component.
9. Owners that actually occupy the dwelling may do the plumbing work in that dwelling only. **Minnesota requires a licenced plumbing contractor** for all other situations regarding plumbing. Water piping and much of the water heater replacement process is considered plumbing work.

A permit is required for a new installation or replacement water heater.

The inspections required for the installation or replacement of a water heater are:

1. New fuel gas piping (if applicable) must be air tested, please call when you have the gas piping completed and a 25 psi for 30 minute air test will be ready to be observed.
2. Schedule an inspection when the work is complete. Both inspections can be done at the same time. Please allow sufficient lead time when requesting an inspection time slot so that both the installation crew and the inspector can make the designated appointment. Notifying the City with sufficient lead time may ensure that your crew will not have to make another trip to finish the job if non-code compliant work is found.

Please contact Julie or Armand, a minimum of one working day (24 hours) prior to the desired inspection time, at 372-8640 to schedule an inspection.