

**State of Oregon
Building Codes Division
Interpretive Ruling No. 97-4**

USE OF TWO-WAY CLEANOUT FITTING

Requested By: BILL THOMAS
CITY OF PORTLAND BUREAU OF BUILDINGS
1120 S.W. 5TH
PORTLAND, OR 97207

QUESTION

What is the approved method of installing a two-way cleanout fitting and riser to grade?

BACKGROUND

Bill Thomas of the City of Portland requested the Plumbing Board determine the appropriate depth and any other applicable limitations for use of two-way cleanouts as defined in Plumbing Code Section 707.4, Exception (4). A code interpretation was requested from the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Interpretation Committee. The Board created this interpretive ruling as a result of the committee's response.

FINDINGS

Installation of a two-way cleanout fitting as addressed in the Oregon State Plumbing Specialty Code (OSPSC), 1996 Edition, Section 707.4, Exception (4), is limited to no more than a three-foot extension to grade. The three-foot extension is to be measured from the center of the cleanout fitting to the top of the cleanout plug. Offsets of the extension are prohibited.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Authority. ORS 455.060 authorizes the Division to issue binding interpretive rulings on the building codes and on acceptability of materials, design or method of construction. Advice received from the Attorney General in OP #5208, October 1, 1981.

Code or factual issues to be resolved. Current Plumbing Code Section 707.4, Exception (4), allows use of an approved type two-way cleanout at the lower end of the building drain extended to grade as a substitute for an upper terminal cleanout. This code provision does not limit the depth of the cleanout fitting or number of offsets in the extension riser. Without limitations on these items the cleanout may not be functional for cleaning the piping system. A person using the cleanout could not tell which direction the cleaning equipment is operating when the piping is too deep or the riser extension is offset.

ANALYSIS

By setting reasonable limitations for the length of the cleanout extension and prohibiting offsets in the riser, the intent of the Plumbing Code can be met. This will also clarify application of this section of the code and create a more uniform enforcement statewide.

CONCLUSION

When an approved two-way cleanout fitting is used under the provisions of OSPSC Section 707.4, Exception (4), the total developed length of the riser extension shall not exceed three feet and shall not contain offsets.

(signed February 21, 1997)

Arthur G. Atchison
Chairman, Plumbing Board

Date

The recommendations and findings of the Board are accepted and the Interpretation is adopted effective immediately.

(signed March 18, 1997)

Joseph A. Brewer III, Administrator
Building Codes Division

Date