

# THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE



IAPMO provides communities with the most innovative plumbing code in the country - one that is backed by the latest science and research. Examples of the advantages and innovations first incorporated in the *Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)* include:

## THE PRO'S CODE

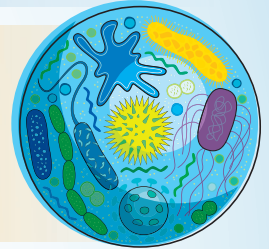
IAPMO proudly supports the United States' plumbing industry by actively promoting policies and providing resources that keep this critical sector strong. IAPMO is also working closely with industry partners to recruit a new generation of workers to the plumbing and mechanical trades. The plumbing industry employs more than 715,000 people across 154,000 (mostly small) businesses, including manufacturers in 24 different states exporting to 198 countries worldwide. This sector plays a vital role in keeping America's drinking water safe and ensuring that we have effective sanitation.



The plumbing industry's preferred code, the *UPC* is supported nationally by the Mechanical Contractors Association of America, the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association, the United Association, and the World Plumbing Council. Asked to choose which plumbing code best protects public safety and welfare, licensed plumbers select the *UPC*.

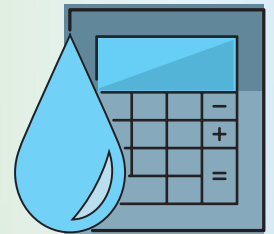
## LEGIONELLA

Cases of Legionella have grown by 450% since 2000, with a mortality rate of approximately 10%. IAPMO shows its leadership in code development by volunteering technical expertise for fighting water-borne pathogens such as Legionella and has developed a task group to ensure new practices are included in the 2021 *UPC* to address this growing epidemic.



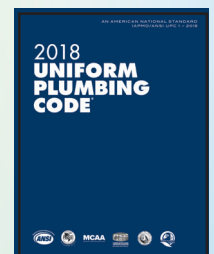
## WATER DEMAND CALCULATOR

IAPMO's new Water Demand Calculator (WDC) for sizing plumbing systems is the most significant advancement for plumbing system sizing since the 1940s. The WDC provides for water and energy savings, improved hot water delivery times and addresses today's lower flow rates for plumbing fixtures and appliances. The calculator saves 10 - 50% in piping material costs alone, depending on the size and the number of fixtures in a residential building.



## WORLD LEADING INNOVATION

The *UPC* is the only code that is in tune with the latest technology such as automatic water leak detection devices, water heaters with integral temperature control devices, rehabilitation of sewer service laterals, scale reduction devices, alkaline water treatment devices, drain water heat recovery units, recirculating shower systems, waterless urinals with drain cleaning action, low-pressure water dispensers, guidelines on water temperature in minimizing both scalding and Legionella growth, and the Water Demand Calculator using new innovative statistical analysis.



Additionally, IAPMO pioneering *Water Efficiency and Sanitation Standard (WE•Stand)* is the first American National Standard that focuses solely on achieving safe and efficient water use in both residential and non-residential buildings.

## INDUSTRY LEADING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Frequently inspectors, contractors, and trades people need assistance in code interpretation and application on the job site. IAPMO provides a free formal code interpretation service that is answered by qualified professionals so users may receive immediate opinions on the code provisions in question, thus avoiding job shut-downs. With the *IPC*, any interpretation requests, verbal or written, require an ICC Membership, limiting who can receive assistance. Further, IAPMO has a free "IAPMO Codes" mobile app for iOS and Android where anyone in the industry can have direct access (by phone and email) to the appropriate IAPMO Technical Staff for codes interpretation. A huge time and cost saving for the jurisdiction and industry alike.



# CLAIMS VS. REALITY

## IPC Claim 1:

*"Over the past 12 years, counties that applied the IPC rather than the UPC have saved \$38 billion."*

**FALSE**

## REALITY:

These savings are grossly overstated, and any savings that may be realized only exist in the short term. The claimed savings only exist if every home in a jurisdiction employs a particular plumbing practice that many counties and jurisdictions have found to be unsafe. Jurisdictions such as New York City have amended the *IPC* by removing this practice from the code. Due to safety concerns, jurisdictions such as Massachusetts and Kentucky also prohibit plumbing practices allowed in the *IPC*. Therefore, the "money savings" claimed by the *IPC* is not based on reality or actual construction practices allowed in many *IPC* jurisdictions.

Additionally, an independent study confirmed that the 2018 ICC code changes increased costs on average 7.57% for commercial buildings and 14.20% for homes over 2015 editions.



## YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON SAFETY

The *UPC* thoughtfully mandates the methods and materials necessary to build a safe, sound plumbing system – the entire point of adopting any building code. These minimum requirements are developed by the industry's leading experts for the purpose of safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of a building's occupants.

## REALITY:

This claim is based on a sample new home of 4,500 square feet. Though many would love to be in a 4,500-square-foot home, according to NAHB, the average home size is 2,355 square feet. Therefore, the claim of money savings is not based in reality. The average home size is 1,150 square feet in San Francisco and 1,800 square feet in Los Angeles. Similar claims about savings on apartment construction are also overstated. The ICC claims are based on an imagined average apartment of 2,000 square feet, while the National Apartment Association puts the actual average at 882 square feet.

## IPC Claim 2:

*"The IPC saves new homes up to \$4,000 in construction costs."*

**FALSE**

## IPC Claim 3:

*"The IPC is a cheaper code."*

**FALSE**



## REALITY:

For a plumber/contractor, the *UPC* requires ONE book for all plumbing installations, while the *IPC* may require up to FIVE ICC BOOKS at nearly five times the cost of a *UPC*.



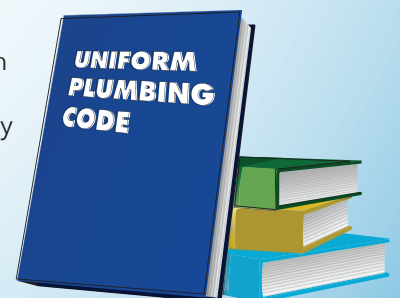
## IPC Claim 4:

*"The IPC is a true consensus code."*

**FALSE**

## REALITY:

The *UPC* was developed by a diverse team of professionals from all aspects of the industry through a process accredited by the American National Standards Institute – the industry's "gold standard." The *IPC* has never achieved that designation because it cannot meet the rigors required.



A consensus process should not permit a code to be changed at the last minute by a single constituency. The Uniform Codes employ a rigorous development process accredited by ANSI where third-party oversight is implemented to assure consensus throughout the entire process.