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BUILDING REGULATIONS  
Article 7. Plumbing

**§9-701 PLUMBING CODE; ADOPTED BY REFERENCE.**

There is hereby adopted for the purpose of establishing rules and regulations for plumbing and/or drainage construction and maintenance, including permits and penalties, that certain plumbing code known as the Uniform Plumbing Code, 2009 Edition, with all of the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, Uniform Plumbing Code Amendments and all other amendments thereto, and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully set out at length herein, and the provisions thereof shall be controlling in regard to the installation, alteration, or repair of all plumbing or drainage systems including the practice, materials, and fixtures used in the installation and appurtenances thereto within the corporate limits of the City of Crete and within two (2) miles thereof and outside the limits of any other incorporated city or village. That portion of the Lincoln Plumbing Code referred to therein as Administration and appearing as sections 24.10.030 through 24.10.050 are specifically not incorporated by reference herein except as provided for above for the schedule of fees to be paid for each plumbing permit. No less than one (1) copy is to be on file at all times in the office of the City Clerk for the information of and reference to same by interested Parties.

*(Ord. 1108 (1990); Ord. 1599 (2003); Ord. 1845 (2013))*

**§9-702 PLUMBING; WATER WELLS; PERMIT REQUIRED.**

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person construct, maintain, or use a water well or test well within the corporate limits or extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the City of Crete without having first obtained a water well permit from the Building Inspector.
- (2) All applications for water well permits shall be submitted in a form and manner prescribed by the Building Inspector and shall contain all of the information required by the City and by any applicable laws, rules, or regulations promulgated by the State of Nebraska or its agencies. All applications shall include the full permit fee or shall be denied. Such fees shall be established by the City Council, and no fees or portion of fees shall be refundable.
- (3) Water well permits shall be valid for one year, and all persons maintaining or using water wells or test wells shall be required to have such wells inspected yearly by the Building Inspector and to obtain an annual permit to continue the maintenance or use of such water well or test well.

*(Ord. 1053 (1988); Ord. 2104 (2020))*

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**§9-703 PLUMBING; WATER WELLS; LOCATION.**

All water wells or test wells shall comply with the minimum separation distances specified in the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, except that the minimum separation distance between a water well or test well and any septic tank must be at least one hundred feet (100').

*(Ord. 1053 (1988); Ord. 2104 (2020))*

**§9-704 PLUMBING; WATER WELLS; CROSS CONNECTIONS; PROHIBITED.**

It shall be unlawful for any water well or test well to be plumbed or connected in such a manner that water from the water well or test well and the city's public water system are or could be connected, at the same time or each separately at different times, to the same piping system or appliance. If any cross connection exists, the water well or test well shall be permanently discontinued and decommissioned or the piping system shall be permanently disconnected from the city's public water system.

*(Ord. 1053 (1988); Ord. 2104 (2020))*

**§9-705 PLUMBING; WATER WELLS; REGISTRATION; INSPECTION.**

- (1) All owners or operators of water wells or test wells shall register their wells with the City of Crete by filing a well drilling log upon the completion of each well. The log shall contain all of the information required by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services for well logs.
- (2) All owners or operators of water wells or test wells shall be required to have the well inspected by the Building Inspector within sixty days following the construction or repair of any well. In the event the water well or test well is not in substantial compliance with any applicable laws, rules, or regulations, the well shall be repaired and reinspected within thirty days or the use of the well shall be immediately discontinued.

*(Ord. 1053 (1988); Ord. 2104 (2020))*

**§9-706 PLUMBING; WATER WELLS; BUILDING INSPECTOR AUTHORITY.**

- (1) The Building Inspector shall have the power and authority to refuse to issue a water well permit if it appears that the water well or test well violates or will violate any laws, rules, or regulations promulgated by the City of Crete, the State of Nebraska, or its agencies or if it appears that the water well or test well may endanger, impair, or in any way

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interfere with the city's public water system.

- (2) Whenever a water well or test well is determined to have an unsafe water sample, pose a significant health or safety hazard, or pose a risk of groundwater contamination, the Building Inspector shall have the power and authority to issue stop use orders, order the repair of the well, order the water of the well to be treated to reduce health or safety risks, or order the well to be decommissioned.
- (3) When necessary, the Building Inspector shall have the power and authority to enter property containing a water well or test well at any reasonable time to inspect the well and the premises to determine if a violation of any laws, rules, or regulations relating to water wells or test wells exists.

*(Ord. 1053 (1988); Ord. 2104 (2020))*

**§9-707 PLUMBING; WATER WELLS; INVESTIGATIONS; VIOLATIONS; PENALTY.**

- (1) The Building Inspector shall investigate suspected violations of any laws, rules, or regulations relating to water wells and test wells. Whenever the Building Inspector finds a violation, a notice of violation shall be issued specifying the corrective action to be taken. The Building Inspector shall issue a citation to any owner or operator of a water well or test well if the violations are not corrected within thirty days.
- (2) Any person who violates any laws, rules, or regulations promulgated by the City of Crete, the State of Nebraska, or its agencies relating to water wells or test wells or who fails to comply with a lawful order of the Building Inspector shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense and shall be punishable as such. The penalties herein provided shall be cumulative and in addition to any other penalty, forfeiture, or action provided by law.

*(Ord. 1057 (1988); Ord. 2104 (2020))*

**§9-708 PLUMBING CODE; PLUMBING PERMITS.**

- (1) No person licensed under the Crete City Code shall cause any plumbing work to be done within the city's zoning jurisdiction without having in his/her possession, on site, a plumbing permit issued by the City of Crete and pursuant to this code containing the name of the master plumber contractor authorized to perform the work at that site.

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- (2) Permits shall be applied for by the duly registered master plumber or water conditioner contractor. When such permit has been approved, it shall be signed and paid for by the duly registered master plumber or water conditioner contractor associated with the business, firm, or corporation which has been previously approved by the City.
- (3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any federal, state, county, or municipal government or any subdivision thereof.

*(Ord. 1743 (2010); Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-709 REGISTRATION OF PLUMBERS; APPLICATION; CLASSIFICATIONS;  
NO PLUMBING WORK PERFORMED BY UNREGISTERED PLUMBERS.**

- (1) Application for registration as a master plumber contractor, journeyman plumber, or plumber's apprentice shall be made in writing to the Building Inspector's Office on a form furnished for such purpose. Such form shall require the name and address of the applicant and such other relevant information as may be required by the Inspector's Office.
- (2) There shall be three classes of registrations as follows:
  - (a) Master plumber contractor is hereby defined as any person skilled in material installation, excavation, planning, and superintending plumbing, drainage, and gas piping, and who is familiar with the ordinances and codes governing the same, and who is competent to install, repair, alter, or remove plumbing or drainage or gas piping with the full responsibility of supervision, in doing such work by himself/herself or employing journeyman plumbers and plumbers apprentices to assist him. A master plumber contractor must have a minimum of three years of practical work experience as an apprentice or the equivalent in formal education approved by the Building Inspector and a minimum of three years practical work experience as a licensed journeyman plumber and pass the written exam with a minimum grade of seventy percent.
  - (b) Journeyman plumber is hereby defined as any person employed by a master plumber contractor, other than a plumber's apprentice, whose principal occupation involves the installation, repair, alteration, or removal of plumbing, drainage, or gas piping. A journeyman plumber must have a minimum of three years practical work experience as a plumber's apprentice and pass the written exam with a minimum grade of seventy percent.

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- (c) Plumber's apprentice is hereby defined as a person, other than a master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber, whose principal occupation is learning and assisting in the installation, repair, alteration, or removal of plumbing, drainage, or gas piping as an employee under the direct supervision and on the same job as the master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber.
- (3) No person shall engage in or lend themselves out as engaging in the plumbing business in the city, or within two miles thereof, or install any piping, fixtures, or other apparatus for supplying water or install any plumbing fixtures, drainage, vents, water distribution systems, or gas piping system, unless:
- (a) He/she shall have been authorized to do so by registration in one of the classifications listed above.
  - (b) Gas piping systems may be installed by any person holding an appropriate registration with a local gas utility company, within the bounds of their employment for said company.
  - (c) Any person or company who holds a valid mechanical permit issued by the City of Crete may install gas piping within the relative scope of the aforementioned permit. Please note that fuel gas appliance installations or replacements may be subject to local utility company policies or codes which may not be reflected herein.
  - (d) Any duly registered water conditioner contractor.
  - (e) Any homeowner whom permanently and exclusively resides in a primary residence shall not be required to hold or maintain a city plumbing license certificate, in order to install or repair plumbing systems wholly contained within said residence; provided, that such person is required to apply for, and obtain, a plumbing permit and all workmanship and installation which he or she performs shall be performed in conformity with this Code and City Ordinances. In all cases, the rules and regulations of this article shall be complied with and such individual shall notify the Inspector's Office of such work proposed, request inspection thereof, and pay the appropriate permit fee.

However, no individual shall be allowed to perform any plumbing work on new construction without first having passed the required examination and have provided the necessary insurance, bonding, and license certificate required by this article.

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- (4) Any corporation, firm, or partnership may be registered hereunder as a master plumber contractor in the name of such corporation, firm, or partnership provided that such corporation, firm, or partnership must have a master plumber contractor as a bona fide employee or partner who has submitted to the examination given by the Building Inspector and has thereby shown him/herself fit, competent, and qualified to engage in the business, trade, or calling of a master plumber contractor, and who shall at all times be in actual charge of and responsible for all installation, removal, or repair of plumbing, drainage, or gas piping systems performed by such corporation, firm, or partnership. The registration certificate shall also be issued in the name of the employee or partner registered as a master plumber contractor. In the event the master plumber contractor employee or partner of a corporation, firm, or partnership possessing a certificate of registration shall withdraw therefrom and cease to be connected therewith, then in such an event he/she shall immediately notify the Inspector's Office, which shall forthwith revoke the certificate of registration of such corporation, firm, or partnership.
- (5) A master plumber contractor certificate issued to an individual shall authorize a company or corporation to engage in such business or occupation during the time that the certificate holder maintains his connection with such company or corporation. A Certificate applied for under the requirements of this article shall be valid and in effect for one company, firm, or corporation as an active registration certificate, and shall not be assignable to any other company, firm, or corporation.

*(Ord. 1744 (2010); Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-710 REGISTRATION OF PLUMBERS; EXAMINATION FOR REGISTRATION; FEES; EXEMPTIONS.**

- (1) Before any applicant shall be registered as a master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber, he/she shall pay an examination fee and shall be required to submit to and pass a written examination to determine his/her qualifications and fitness for executing the class of work. Such examination shall be administered by the Building Inspector as a three hour exam within three days of the initial request and at a time which is of the Inspector's choosing. Any applicant who fails to pass the required examination shall not be eligible to take another examination until at least one month has elapsed from the date of last examination.

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- (2) Each applicant for master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber registration shall pay to the Administrative Authority an examination fee as follows:

Master plumber contractor examination fee: \$50.00.

Journeyman plumber examination fee: \$50.00.

Upon initial issuance or subsequent renewal of a registration certificate, a registration fee shall be paid annually to the Administrative Authority as follows:

Master plumber contractor registration fee: \$50.00.

Journeyman plumber registration fee: \$20.00.

Plumber's apprentice registration fee: \$10.00.

- (3) Any person duly registered at the time of the adoption of this code shall be automatically registered under his appropriate classification of registration without submitting to an examination.
- (4) Registrations shall expire on the thirty-first day of December following the date of issuance. Registration shall not be assignable. No registered master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber shall employ any person as a plumber's apprentice who is not registered as a plumber's apprentice within the City of Crete. No plumber's apprentice shall be permitted to work at the installation, alteration, repair, or removal of any plumbing, drainage, or gas piping except under the direct supervision and on the same job site of a duly registered master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber.
- (5) The Inspector's Office shall have the power to suspend or revoke any master plumber contractor or journeyman plumber certificate of registration if the same was obtained by error or fraud, or if the holder thereof is shown to be no longer qualified, or such holder fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with the provisions of this code. It shall be unlawful for any registered plumber to allow his name to be used by any other person, directly or indirectly, to obtain a permit for the installation, alteration, or repair of any plumbing, drainage, or gas piping system. Violation of this section shall be sufficient grounds for suspension or revocation of said certificates of registration as provided herein.
- (6) Before any master plumber contractor as herein defined may be issued a permit under the provisions of this code, such master plumber contractor shall be required to:
- (a) At all times maintain public liability insurance coverage for all claims arising out of all work in the City of Crete

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and within two miles of the corporate limits thereof done by or under the supervision of the master plumber under the provisions of this code. Such insurance shall be in the form of a commercial or comprehensive general liability policy, or an acceptable substitute policy form as permitted by the City Attorney, with a minimum combined single limit of \$1,000,000.00 aggregate for any one occurrence on any job for which a permit is required under this code, provided the City of Crete shall be named an additional insured thereunder. The coverages required herein shall be subject to review and approval by the City Attorney for conformance with the provisions of this section.

- (b) At all times keep on file with the Inspector's Office a current certificate of insurance signed by a qualified agent of an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Nebraska and approved by the City Attorney for conformance with the provisions of this section evidencing the existence of valid and effective policies of insurance naming the city as additional insured for the coverage required by part (a) of this subsection, the limits of each policy, the policy number, the name of the insurer, the effective date and expiration date of each policy, the deductibles or self-insurance retainers of each policy, and a copy of an endorsement placed on each policy requiring thirty days notice by mail to the Inspector's Office before the insurer may cancel the policy for any reason, and, upon request of the Inspector's Office or the City Attorney, a copy of any endorsements placed on such policies or the declarations page of such policies.

Any termination, reduction, or lapse of such insurance shall automatically terminate the master plumber contractor's privilege to be issued permits under the provisions of this code unless other insurance meeting the requirements of this subsection is provided and in full force and effect at the time of such expiration or cancellation.

- (7) Before any master plumber contractor, as defined herein, may be issued a plumbing permit, such master plumber contractor shall deposit with the Inspector's Office a \$3000.00 payment bond. Said bond shall provide that the master plumber contractor shall reimburse the City of Crete the cost of any unfinished or improper workmanship in or under the City's right-of-way. All excavation, backfills, and resurfacing shall be in accordance with the Department of Public Works policies.



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Failure to keep payments current for excavation backfills and resurfacing in accordance with the Department of Public Works policy shall be grounds for withholding further permits of any kind until such backlog of charges are paid in full.

*(Ord. 1745 (2010))*

**§9-711.01 WATER CONDITIONERS; LICENSE REQUIRED.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the business of installing water conditioning apparatus without first having secured a license to do so from the Building Inspector.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.02 WATER CONDITIONERS; APPLICATION.**

The application for a license required by this article shall be made in writing to the Building Inspector on blank forms prepared and furnished by such Office and shall give the full name under which such business is to be conducted.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.03 WATER CONDITIONERS; EXAMINATION.**

- (1) Water conditioning contractors/installers examinations shall be composed and given by the permits and inspections department, and the applicant must provide proof of the following:
  - (a) Minimum of three (3) years practical work experience as an installer under a licensed contractor.
  - (b) Passed the written test with a minimum grade of seventy percent.
- (2) Formal education accrued from an approved educational institution may be submitted for consideration by the building official towards the practical work experience requirement.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.04 WATER CONDITIONERS; EXAMINATION; FEE.**

Each applicant for a water conditioning contractor/installer's license shall appear before the Building Inspector upon notice and submit to such examination and test of his/her ability and qualifications as may be required by the City and shall pay to the city department an examination fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

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**§9-711.05 WATER CONDITIONERS; LICENSE FEE.**

When an applicant for a water conditioning contractor/installer's license passes the examination and tests required to the satisfaction of the city he/she shall pay a license fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.06 WATER CONDITIONERS; CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE REQUIRED.**

Prior to receiving a license under the preceding section, an applicant who has successfully passed the water conditioning contractor/installer's examination shall provide a certificate of insurance which provides combined coverage for bodily injury and property damage in a minimum amount of three hundred thousand dollars(\$300,000.00) and shall strictly comply with this code and any other ordinances of the City relating to the installation, alteration, or repair of any water conditioning apparatus within the zoning jurisdiction of the City.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.07 WATER CONDITIONERS; ISSUANCE; TERM.**

At the time of approval by the City Council and the payment of a license fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), the building official shall issue a license to do water conditioning contracting work in the city which shall be effective and valid through December 31 of each calendar year.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.08 WATER CONDITIONERS; RENEWAL; FEE.**

Before the expiration of any license issued from or by the Building Inspector, the holder may, upon payment of a renewal fee in the amount of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), make application to the Building Inspector for renewal of his/her license. Failure to make application and pay the renewal fee for renewal of a license before the expiration date thereof subjects the applicant to pay the renewal fee plus an additional late fee in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.00) for each month or partial month since the expiration date of the license up to and including three (3) months from such expiration date. If the application is filed and the fees are paid in accordance with the above, the building official shall issue a renewal of such license without examination unless there are revocation or suspension proceedings in progress against such individual. If the holder of a license fails to make application for renewal of his/her license within ninety (90) days from the expiration date, he or she shall lose all rights of

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his/her license and proceed in the same manner as if he or she had never held a license. If the building official has reason to believe that the licensee has violated the provisions of section 9-819, he/she shall have the power to impose any revocation or suspension clause contained within the context of this article.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.09 WATER CONDITIONERS; EXAMINATION TO BE BASIS FOR ISSUANCE.**

When the applicant for a license required by department passes the required examination to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector, the building official shall notify the applicant of his/her score within fifteen (15) days of the examination. The building official shall provide the City Council with the names of all successful applicants for licensing under this article with recommendations for issuance of such license. At the time of approval by the city council and the payment of a license fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), the building official shall issue a license to do water conditioning work in the city which shall be effective and valid through December 31 of each calendar year.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.10 WATER CONDITIONERS; PERMITS.**

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to install, alter, remove, or repair any water conditioning appliance, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a permit therefor from the permits and inspection department. No permit shall be required for minor repair work. Minor repair work is defined as repairing leaks in pipes, cleaning out supply or waste lines, or repairing a water conditioning appliance.
- (2) A permit to install a water conditioning appliance may be issued only to a duly registered water conditioning contractor or registered master plumber. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to cause or permit any water conditioning installation to be done on any property owned, managed, or controlled by such person, firm, or corporation unless such work is done by said duly registered water conditioning contractor/installer or registered plumber. Application for a permit may be made in writing to the Building Inspector on a form furnished by the department for that purpose.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

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**§9-711.11 WATER CONDITIONERS; SAME WORK DONE BY PERSON IN HIS/HER OWN RESIDENCE.**

No license required under this article shall be required of any individual doing installation or repair of the water conditioning appliance in the residence in which he/she lives, provided that such installation is done in conformity with this code and any other ordinances of the City. In all cases, the rules and regulations of this article shall be complied with and such individual shall notify the City of such work proposed, request inspection thereof, and pay a permit fee to cover the cost of the inspection. Furthermore, this section shall only apply to those installations required for remodeling, additions, and repairs. No individual shall be allowed to perform any plumbing work on new construction without first having passed the required examination and have provided the necessary insurance required by this article and been issued a license to do such work.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.12 WATER CONDITIONERS; FEES.**

A fee shall be paid to the City of Crete as follows:

Base permit: \$ 18.25.

For each water conditioning apparatus: \$ 8.00.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*

**§9-711.13 WATER CONDITIONERS; INSTALLATION AND INSPECTION.**

The water piping to any water conditioning appliance shall be of materials and methods of installation approved for water distribution in this Code. Piping from any water conditioning appliance to the city sewer system shall be of any material approved by the permits and inspection department. All water conditioning installations shall be inspected by the permits and inspections department to insure compliance with all the requirements of this Code. It shall be the duty of the person doing the work authorized by the permit to notify the building inspection department orally or in writing that said work is ready for inspection and for said person doing the work to provide access and means for proper inspection. It shall be the duty of the person doing the work to call for inspection of the water conditioning installation and arrange to meet the Building Inspector on-site for the inspection not later than three (3) days after completion of the installation.

*(Ord. 1998 (2017))*