

# THE CITY OF

## Building Inspection Division



# Owatonna

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June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### **Water heater installation permit fees and inspections**

**Effective June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010** the City of Owatonna Building Inspection Division will begin requiring plumbing permits for the installation of new and replacement residential and commercial water heaters and instantaneous heaters. These systems will require a final inspection to verify the installation of venting (including chimney liners where applicable), outside combustion air, temperature relief valves, shut-offs on water supply lines, electrical connections and manufacturer's installation requirements including the listing of appliances for confined spaces and manufacture home use and compliance and listing of dual use systems including double wall requirements. Note: under-floor boiler heating systems not connected to the potable water system still require a mechanical permit and inspections prior to the installation.

Instantaneous water heaters shall comply with the MN State Plumbing Code section 4715.1760 and 4715.1770. Manufacturer's information shall be provided that shows the units can deliver minimum (supply demands psi) and (flow rates gpm); when multiple fixtures are turned on. Additional review time may be required to verify compliance at permit application request.

\*\* A plumbing permit (water heater installation) will be required for all residential and commercial installations. The permit fees will be based on the valuation of the appliance and installation costs. \*\*  
(Example: a typical \$1000.00 water heater replacement valuation would equate to a permit fee of \$ 27.25)

New potable water piping and water heaters shall require disinfecting procedures which include chlorinating and flushing the new piping. The potable water disinfection certificate form can be found on the City of Owatonna Building Inspection Division's website under the plumbing tab.

New gas piping shall be air tested or soap tested per MN Fuel Gas Code piping procedures. CSST gas piping shall be bonded (new and existing installations). CSST gas piping shall be installed by a CSST certified installer.

New electrical connections/wiring shall be permitted and inspected by the MN State Electrical Inspector. Please contact Mr. Michael Anthony at 507-465-3522 7:00am -8:30am (Monday to Friday) for information.

A homeowner can install their own water heaters including plumbing and gas piping if they are competent to perform the work. If not the homeowner; then a licensed plumber (licensed as an Owatonna gas installer) is required to install the water heater and make any potable water connections and gas line connections.

Please contact the Owatonna Building Inspection Division with make, model and manufacturer's installation information to obtain a plumbing permit. Installation instructions must be kept with the permit and available to the inspector at final inspection. Inspections can be scheduled by contacting the Building Inspection Division at (507-444-4370) at least one day in advance for scheduling purposes.

The following information shall be submitted at the time of permit application. Permit submittal documents can be faxed in ahead-of-time to allow for review of the submitted material for permit approval prior to your arrival. No installation work shall commence until a plumbing permit is issued.

If a water heater should develop a leak or need replacing during evening or weekend hours, the water heater may be installed by qualified plumbing contractors or homeowners. A plumbing permit shall then be applied for during the next business day city offices are open.

- 1) Address and contractor/owner contact information?
- 2) Manufacturer make and model of appliance including size and BTU's?
- 3) Type of venting for appliance? Use of existing or newly installed venting?  
Describe venting system IE: flue liner in existing chimney, PVC direct vent, PVC power vent, single wall metal vent to sidewall, multiple appliance chimney venting system, etc.
- 4) Brief description of the installation and any items of interest specific to the job.
- 5) Valuation of the installation including labor.
- 6) Optional submittal: copy of Manufacturer's installation manual pages applicable to the installation?

Note: the manufacturer's installation manual must be present at final inspection for review of installation.

Combustion air must be provided for all water heater installations. Sizing of the combustion air shall be based on the type of all appliances within the mechanical room, BTU ratings and mechanical room area/volume as described in the 2009 Mechanical & Energy Code worksheets. Please submit the worksheet, identification of all appliances and the intended combustion air duct sizing along with your plumbing permit application.

**Boilers:** please include additional information:

- I) Backflow prevention (boilers) if connected to potable water source?
- II) Combustion air calculations {size of Combustion air inlet}. (**See Item F on Owatonna 2009 Ventilation and Combustion Air Calculations Worksheet.** This includes identifying other appliances in the mechanical equipment area for combustion calculations). These worksheets and instructions can be found at the City of Owatonna Building Inspection Division's website under the mechanical tab.

**Inspections:**

Owner/installer must schedule a final inspection of the installation. Same day inspections may be requested if the permit is acquired first thing in the morning on regular business days. City inspection staff will be consulted to see if an additional inspection can be added to their scheduled days inspections. If inspectors workloads prevent the additional inspection, a scheduled inspection appointment must be made.

Owatonna Public Utilities has an energy rebate program. Through cooperation between OPU and Owatonna Building Inspections a final inspection report is required to be submitted with applications to OPU for rebates.

Plumbing contractors are requested to schedule inspection appointments also, as identified above; however, contractors may elect to provide a completed water heater installation certificate to the Building Inspection Division upon completion of the installation. The Inspection Division would then randomly pick certificate submittals for inspection. Contact would be made with the contractor to set up an inspection appointment with the homeowner and inspector for review of that installation. This would result in random inspections and reduce the need for every installation to be inspected. **However, all manufactured homes and apartment units will require inspection. The random inspection policy does not apply to these installations. If Owatonna Public Utility rebates are requested, a final inspection must be scheduled to provide documentation for processing of the rebate application.**

**Contractor Faxed Application and Billing Procedures:**

Water heater plumbing permit applications and combustion air intake worksheets (see City of Owatonna Building Inspection website under the plumbing tab) can be faxed to the Owatonna Building Inspection Division at 507-444-4351. The water heater can then be installed/replaced. Applications will be stored in contractor business files and shall be paid for within 10 business days of the application date or before the last day of each month whichever comes first.

Please understand that the above faxed application, billing and certificate including random inspection will only be available to those contractors who pay the bill by the end of the 10 business days or last day of the month (whichever comes first) and who have demonstrated code compliant installations. Individual contractors may have these options revoked if compliance with the procedures or installations becomes an issue.

Sincerely,  
Building Inspection Staff