

Legislation

Sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying

While New Zealand law allows anyone to purchase fittings and appliances it is illegal to do restricted sanitary plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work without authorisation.

What does this mean for consumers?

You should ask to see the current authorisation card of a tradesperson – this is confirmation that the plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work will be completed by someone qualified or competently supervised.

You can have greater confidence in the competence of the tradespeople you engage.

It's important to know that work undertaken by unlicensed people may invalidate insurance cover.

Getting it right

Sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying

Who can I trust?

Ask-for-the-card. Everyone authorised to undertake plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work must carry their licence card and are required to produce it.

A public register of all certifying and licensed tradespeople is available at www.pgdb.co.nz. You can use the search function to find contact details of specific individuals, or to find the names and contact details of certifying or licensed tradespeople in your area.

If you believe work you have had done is sub-standard, or has been done by someone who does not hold a current licence, you can make a complaint to the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board.

0800 743 262

www.pgdb.co.nz

CONSUMER GUIDE

BUILDING OR RENOVATING?

THE RIGHT STEPS TO TAKE



CAUTION / CAUTION / CAUTION

What is sanitary plumbing?

Sanitary plumbing is any work involved in fixing or unfixing any pipe, plumbing fixture or appliance including any trap, waste or soil pipe, ventilation pipe, or overflow pipe and any pipe that supplies or is intended to supply water.

All sanitary plumbing must comply with the Building Code and where a building consent is required, the work should be checked by the building inspector from the building control authority in your area (your local council). A code of compliance certificate cannot be issued until the work has been signed off by the building inspector.

All sanitary plumbing work must be carried out by a licenced plumber. However, people who are not licenced plumbers can undertake some basic tasks.

What sanitary plumbing work does not include

Work that is not defined as sanitary plumbing includes the installation of appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines. Changing tap washers, replacement or repair of taps, ball valves and plugs are also not defined as sanitary plumbing.

What is drainlaying?

Drainlaying is any work involving the installation, alteration or repairs to a drain, including the fixing or unfixing of a drain to an onsite waste water system (septic tank) or any gully trap.

All drainlaying work must comply with the Building Code and where a building consent is required, the work should be checked by the building inspector from the building control authority in your area (your local council). A code of compliance certificate cannot be issued until the work has been signed off by the building inspector.

All drainlaing work must be carried out by a licenced drainlayer. However, people who are not licenced drainlayers can undertake some basic tasks.

What drainlaying work does not include

Work that is not defined as drainlaying includes clearing blocked drains. However, only if this does not involve altering or repairing the inspection pipe or ventilation pipe in any way.

What is gasfitting?

Gasfitting is any work involved in installing, altering or repairing gas appliances. This includes the fixing or unfixing of any gas pipes, ventilation or flue pipes, commissioning gas appliances and ensuring their safe operation. The testing, setting, checking and adjusting of safety devices, combustion conditions and controls associated with the gas installation and ensuring there is adequate ventilation, is also defined as gasfitting.

Gasfitting does include work on appliances fitted to ships, boats, caravans, motorhomes, trains and any other vehicles. It also includes work on gas appliances fixed within buildings that are supplied by gas bottles of any size.

All gasfitting work must be carried out by a licenced gasfitter. However, people who are not licenced gasfitters may undertake basic tasks.

What gasfitting work does not include

Work that is not defined as gasfitting includes work on portable gas appliances which have the gas bottle attached (generally 9kg) such as barbecues, cabinet heaters and patio heaters.

Important note: You need to obtain a gas certificate or certificate of compliance after the installation of most gas appliances. If you are unsure if you need on contact the Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drianlayers Board for advice.

Who can do sanitary plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying work?

Certifying plumber, gasfitter or drainlayer	The highest qualification available. These people are qualified and registered. They are responsible for ensuring both their own work, and the work of anyone they supervise is done competently.
Licensed plumber, gasfitter or drainlayer	Qualified and registered but must be supervised by a certifying person who is ultimately responsible for ensuring the work is done competently.
Limited certificate trainee	These are people who are working towards becoming qualified and registered. They can do the work but a certifying person must ensure it is done competently.
Exempt worker	These people don't have any qualification but can do plumbing, gasfitting or drainlaying work provided they are supervised by a certifying person, who must ensure that the work is done competently.



If you are still unsure there are advisors on hand to help. Give the Board a call on 0800 743 262