



# Plumbing Newsflash

## An improved Queensland Plumbing & Wastewater Code

### Purpose

To advise the new Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW code) commences on 1 January 2008.

### Background

In Queensland, plumbing, drainage and on-site sewerage work must comply with the QPW code. The new QPW code provides for:

- testing, design, approval and installation of on-site sewage treatment plants for 20 equivalent persons or smaller;
- approvals of greywater treatment plants;
- greywater use in sewered and unsewered areas; and
- sub-meters.

On 20 August 2007, the Queensland Government announced further water saving measures aimed at preserving our drinking water supplies. Sub-metering of new multi-unit residential and non-residential premises and expanding the allowable uses of treated greywater have been included within the new look QPW code.

### Legislation

*Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 (PDA)*

*Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR)*

*Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code (QPW code)*

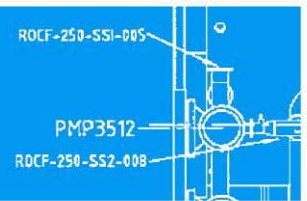
### Interpretation

The new QPW code was published on 23 November 2007 and will be adopted under the SPDR from 1 January 2008. New aspects of the QPW code are outlined below.

### New look performance based QPW code

The new QPW code has been re-drafted as a true performance-based document, in line with existing industry codes. It has been condensed to provide a document which is easy to read and assist with the development of alternative solutions to the acceptable solutions provided in the code.

This format clearly and concisely delivers Queensland's rules for approval of on-site sewage treatment plants and greywater treatment plants. It also provides for the application of the effluent to land and the re-use of greywater for certain potential end uses.



### **Sub-metering of all new multi-unit residential and non-residential premises**

Any premises drawing a water supply from the water service provider will be required to install sub-meters for separate lots under a community title scheme, including the common property, and all sole occupancy units in a Class 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 building.

Part 4 of the QPW code deals with “Water meters for new premises”. It is divided into four performance criteria and four acceptable solutions. These have been designed to be simple and easy to read. The code defines the ‘meterable premises’ that are required to be supplied with water meters.

### **Expanded allowable uses of treated greywater**

At present the PDA restricts the use of greywater in sewered areas. Section 85B of the Act restricts it to premises on which Class 1a buildings are constructed and which generate less than 3 kl per day. From 1 January 2008 compliance permits may be granted for all classes of building (i.e. more than class1a) where the premises generates less than 50 kl per day.

The QPW code has been amended to provide for the level of treatment required for a particular end use (see Table T1 of the code). Some potential end uses require treatment to a 10/10/10 standard, i.e. 10 BOD5 (Biological Oxygen Demand), 10 thermotolerant coliforms and 10 suspended solids. Potential end uses have been expanded to include toilet flushing, laundry use (cold water source to washing machines), vehicle washing, path/wall washdown and lawn and garden spray irrigation.

In addition, the use of treated greywater through the installation of a greywater treatment plant will provide a new compliance alternative to meet water savings targets under Queensland Development Code Part MP 4.2 (Water savings targets).

### **Treated blackwater trials**

Amendments to the PDA will allow controlled treated blackwater trials on 1-3 sites in South East Queensland only, over a period of two to three years. These trials will provide the necessary research to underpin an effective regulatory framework for future implementation

The QPW code will be amended to provide the testing requirements for the blackwater trials in the near future.

### **Guidelines**

Guidelines to support the QPW code and greywater use in Queensland have been developed and will soon be available on the Department of Infrastructure and Planning’s website at [www.infrastructure.qld.gov.au](http://www.infrastructure.qld.gov.au)

### **Contact**

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