

PLUMBING NEWSLETTER



All information herein was referenced for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Area. If you have questions concerning other Inspection Divisions, please contact that division for your answers.

CONTRACTORS — SIDEWALK CUT PERMITS:

For those that are not aware, the City of Winston-Salem has a policy for any contractor how will be tunneling, cutting through or boring under a city maintained sidewalk. This policy will require the contractor to obtain a "SIDE WALK CUT PERMIT" as well as a "Plumbing Permit" before work begins. Below is what The City of Winston-Salem Streets Division has sent to us to give to you.

Information for City Inspections

FYI: The City of Winston-Salem Streets Division is responsible for sidewalk repair (including tunneling or boring), replacement and maintenance; and for the repair of all street cuts on city streets made by private contractors, utility companies such as gas, power, and cable, and the City Water and Sewer Division. Any obstruction to the sidewalk, street, or curb and gutter, will require a permit for restoration. To obtain a permit contact **Renata Owens** at **336.747.6998** or at renatao@cityofws.org.

Code of Ordinances
Sec. 74-141. - Street

permit and restoration fees.

Any person who desires a permit for any excavation in the paved or surfaced streets or public ways of the city shall be required to obtain a written permit from the assistant city manager/public works or some other authorized officer of the city and shall pay in advance, upon application for the permit, a minimum fee of \$300.00 for each excavation. The schedule of charges to be made by the city for restoring any paved street surface shall be the following:

- (1) City maintained street:
 - a. A minimum fee of \$300.00 or \$7.25 per square foot for an area 90 square feet or less, whichever is greater; or
 - b. \$4.75 per square foot for an area greater than 90 square feet.
 - (2) State maintained street:
 - a. A minimum fee of \$300.00 or \$8.75 per square foot for an area 90 square feet or less, whichever is greater; or
 - b. \$8.25 per square foot for an area greater than 90 square feet.
- (Code 1975, § 21-93; Ord. No. 4554, § 1, 6-19-06; Ord. No. 4694, § 1, 6-21-10)*

Sec. 74-142. - Sidewalk permit and restoration fees.

Any person desiring to make any excavation in any brick or concrete paved sidewalk or driveway along the public streets, alleys or public property of the city shall be required to obtain a written permit from the assistant city man-

ager/public works or his authorized representative. The permit fee, payable in advance for sidewalk, driveway, or curb and gutter excavations, shall be a minimum of \$400.00 for each excavation. Restoration of sidewalk, driveway pavement, or curb and gutter shall be made in full units or blocks as originally marked off. The schedule of charges to be made by the city in restoring any brick or concrete sidewalk, driveway pavement, or curb and gutter if the same is not restored in accordance with the provisions of the City of Winston-Salem Municipal Code, Sections 74-136 through 74-138, shall be as follows:

- (1) A minimum fee of \$400.00 for concrete sidewalk repaired up to 25 square feet plus \$7.00 per square foot for an area exceeding 25 square feet.
 - (2) (2) A minimum fee of \$400.00 for concrete driveway repaired up to 20 square feet plus \$8.00 per square foot for an area exceeding 20 square feet.
 - (3) A minimum fee of \$400.00 for brick sidewalk repaired up to 20 square feet plus \$8.00 per square foot for an area exceeding 20 square feet.
 - (4) (4) A minimum fee of \$400.00 for concrete curb and gutter repaired up to ten lineal feet plus \$30.00 per lineal foot for an area exceeding ten lineal feet.
- (Code 1975, § 21-94; Ord. No. 4256, § 1, 6-16-97; Ord. No. 4625, § 1, 6-16-08; Ord. No. 4693, § 1, 6-21-10; Ord. No. 4729, § 1, 6-20-11; Ord. No. 4745, § 1, 2-20-12)*



Don't wait for your ship to come in swim out to it



You can't direct the wind, but you can adjust your sails

IMPORTANT NOTICES:

Over the past few weeks this office has received questions about the mandatory continuing education requirements for license holders by the State Board of Examiners for Plumbing, Heating and Fire Sprinkler Contractors.

It is always recommended that a license holder go to their web site @ www.nclicensing.org

Or call the Board @ 919-875-3612 with any questions.

The Board has the following information posted on the front of their web page in response to the questions they have received and I'm sure the Board will put this information in their next Newsletter.

Repeal of Mandatory Continuing Education as a Condition of Annual License Renewal Effective December 31, 2012.

On or about October 14, 2011, the Board unanimously voted to eliminate the rules that require mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal. In November of 2011, the Board submitted a set of proposed rules to the North

Carolina Rules Review Commission, which included elimination of mandatory Continuing Education as a condition of annual license renewal. The proposed repeal of mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal was set to be effective on December 31, 2012.

During the review period, the North Carolina Rules Review Commission received at least ten (10) letters of objection to the proposed changes. This resulted in the proposed changes being sent to the North Carolina General Assembly (also referred to as the legislature) for their review and any action deemed necessary. We received information late on July 3, 2012, that the rules have been approved as submitted by the Board.

This means that mandatory continuing education as a condition of annual license renewal will no longer be required as of December 31, 2012. Licensees with a currently active license will be eligible to renew the license for 2013 without the mandatory continuing education requirement. The Board is aware of the fact that many licensees have already completed the continuing education that would have been required for the 2013 renewal under the old rule. If the rules had been approved as submitted, without objection and

the resulting delay, this would not have been an issue; however, the letters of objection delayed the approval process for a period of approximately six months, an action that was beyond the control of the Board. This resulted in much confusion and anxiety for many months, and many licensees attended the classes "just in case" the rule regarding continuing education did not change.

Licensees who are currently in expired status must comply with the rules in order to renew the license for 2010, 2011, and/or 2012, but will not be required to attend continuing education for the 2013 renewal. The continuing education class schedule for the remainder of 2012 is available on our website to assist licensees in locating classes and provider contact information.

From this point forward, active licensees will not be required to attend continuing education courses that have been approved by the Board as a condition of annual renewal. The Board strongly encourages all licensees to periodically attend continuing education classes in order to maintain and increase your knowledge within your respective trades. In order to assist our licensees in locating continuing education classes, beginning in January, 2013 our website will continue to

list names, types of classes, and contact information of the providers who notify the Board staff that they will be offering continuing education classes.

The Board is currently creating a continuing education program for use as a disciplinary tool for any licensee whom a valid complaint is filed against. This is not a new practice, as a number of special classes have been used on a limited basis for many years. It is the position of the Board that the individual licensee should be responsible for keeping himself/herself educated and in touch with the latest business and trade practices. Licensees who fail to take this responsibility seriously are more likely to be the subject of complaints. The Board will ensure that those who are in need of continuing education as evidenced by the findings of the complaint investigation will be required to satisfactorily complete mandatory continuing education in order to keep their license in good standing.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to publicly express our appreciation to the providers and instructors that have developed and conducted continuing education classes over the past ten years.

If you are looking for information from NCDOL please go to www.ncdoi.com

For licensing questions contact the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors at www.nclicensing.org

If you have any questions or wish for your questions to be included in our newsletter, please send all questions to :

James Rhodes @ Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections 100 E. First St., Suite 328 Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Office: 336-727-2379 or **E-mail:** jamesr@cityofws.org

CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM Mayor: Allen Joiner City Council: Vivian H. Burke, Mayor Pro Tempore, Northeast Ward; Denise D. Adams, North Ward; Dan Besse, Southwest Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; Molly Leight, South Ward; Wanda Merschel, Northwest Ward; Derwin L. Montgomery, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward City Manager: Lee Garrity
 FORSYTH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS David R. Plyler, Chairman; Debra Conrad, Vice Chair; Beaufort O. Bailey; Ted Kaplan; Richard V. Linville; Walter Marshall; Gloria D. Whisenhunt County Manager: Dudley Watts, Jr.

