

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing
AIBC, EGBC and BOABC

File No: 12-0107

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	March 20, 2018
Building Code Edition:	BC Plumbing Code 2012
Subject:	Shower Drains
Keywords:	Shower Drain, Size, Drainage, Shower Heads
Building Code Reference(s):	2.4.9.3.(1); Table 2.4.9.3.

Question:

What is the minimum required size of the fixture outlet pipe that serves a shower equipped with multiple shower heads?

Interpretation:

Sentence 2.4.9.3.(1) requires that the size of every fixture outlet pipe conform to Table 2.4.9.3. This Table requires a minimum fixture outlet pipe size of 2 inch where the shower drain receives the discharge from 2 or 3 heads for example (the corresponding load would be 3 fixture units). This means that both or all three, heads would be flowing simultaneously.

It is also important that the manufacturer's installation instructions be consulted, if provided, when installing multiple head shower valves for their recommended drain sizing.

The Committee has considered that this long standing plumbing code requirement was most likely envisioned to apply to gang shower type installations, normally found in assembly occupancies (i.e. – change rooms serving fitness facilities or aquatic centres). Plumbing industry advances have led to multiple head installations, which are supplied by a single control valve, installed in residential applications. It is suggested that some judgment should be applied by the local authority having jurisdiction in the sizing of the shower drains in the single shower, residential type situation, perhaps utilizing the above mentioned manufacturer's recommended drain sizing methods if available. It is possible that the manufacturer's recommendations could exceed the requirements of the BC Plumbing Code and, if this is the case, should still be followed.

The above issue will be forwarded by the Committee to the Building and Safety Standards Branch for their information and consideration in advancing a plumbing code amendment.


R. J. Light, Committee Chair

The views expressed are the consensus of the joint committee with members representing AIBC, EGBC and BOABC, which form the BC Building Code Interpretation Committee. The Building and Safety Standards Branch, Province of BC and the City of Vancouver participate in the committee's proceedings with respect to interpretations of the BC Building Code. The purpose of the committee is to encourage uniform province wide interpretation of the BC Building Code. These views should not be considered as the official interpretation of legislated requirements based on the BC Building Code, as final responsibility for an interpretation rests with the local *Authority Having Jurisdiction*. The views of the joint committee should not be construed as legal advice.