
STANDATA bulletin 20-PCB-005

Plumbing

Floor drains and trap seal replenishment

Date Issued: April 2023

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Purpose

This bulletin informs the plumbing industry of the requirements regarding floor drain trap seal replenishment and methods of maintaining a trap seal to minimize the risk of malfunction, interference, damage, tampering, lack of use or misuse.

Discussion

The National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC) 2020 requires that provisions must be made for maintaining the trap seal of a floor drain such as:

- Manual replenishment may not be acceptable where a floor drain location is made inaccessible for manual replenishment (in residences) after the installation of equipment or appliances. An example is an emergency floor drain in a laundry room that is located under a clothes washer and/or clothes dryer.
- The installer should instruct the owner in the procedures for manual replenishment (in residences), and the correct operation and maintenance of an automatic replenishment system, where applicable.
- A 1 ½ inch indirect waste pipe to a floor drain or other suitable location may be considered as an alternative for a residential above grade indirect emergency floor drain discharge. Refer to Fig. #1.
- Floor drain trap seals may be automatically replenished with clear water waste from a 1 ½ inch concealed condensate or clear water drain from sources localized within a single mechanical room. The connection may be made into the floor drain fixture outlet pipe located under the floor. Refer to Fig. #2.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to the National Plumbing Code of Canada 2020

Issued by the Provincial Plumbing Administrator

Original signed

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Code Reference

NPC- 2.4.5.5. Trap Seals

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1) Provision shall be made for maintaining the *trap* seal of a floor drain by

The use of the *trap* seal primer,

Using the drain as a receptacle for an *indirectly connected* drinking fountain, or

Other equally effective means.

A-2.4.5.5.(1) Maintaining a trap seals periodic manual replenishment of the water in a trap is considered to be an effective means of maintaining the trap seal in floor drains in residences. Under pressure differential conditions, special measures are necessary to maintain trap seals.

Other equally effective means, such as a trap seal device certified to ASSE 1072 Performance Requirements for Barrier Type Floor Drain Trap Seal Protection Devices, that limit trap seal evaporation, must also maintain an effective water seal by manual or automatic replenishment depending on the type of installation.

The information and drawings provided are intended for guidance only. Site specific conditions may vary and should be considered in each case.

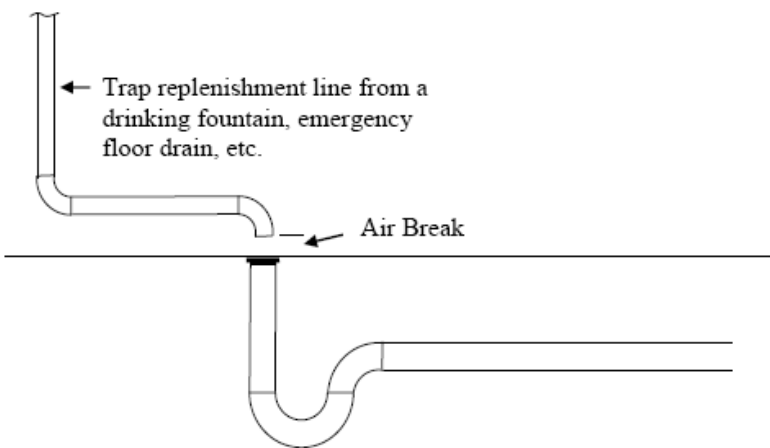


Fig. # 1

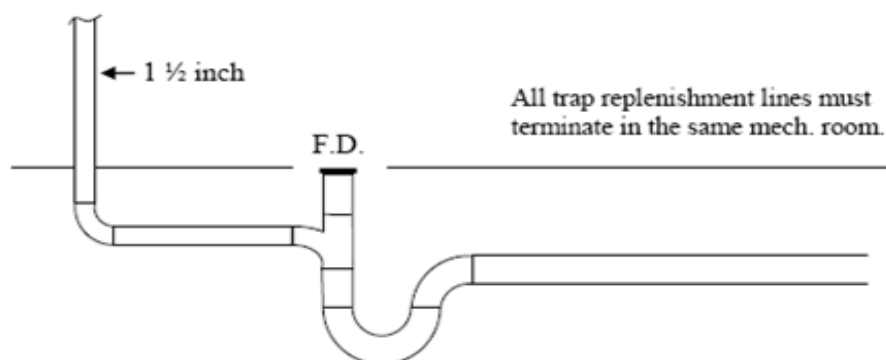


Fig. # 2