What is Sanitary work?
A guide to read before you apply for registration

Do you have the skills, knowledge and experience to apply for registration as a plumbing practitioner in Sanitary work? To help you, this guide explains some of the typical tasks of Sanitary work. If you are asked to an assessment interview, some of your interview questions will be based on this information.

Get to know the regulation
Under Part 10 of the Plumbing Regulations 2008, Sanitary work is:

(1) the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of any part of an above ground sanitary plumbing system to connect sanitary fixtures and appliances to a disposal system or below ground sanitary drainage system and includes –
   (a) the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of –
      (i) any fixture in, or on, a caravan or vessel that is connected to a disposal system or below ground sanitary drainage system; and
      (ii) any roof sheeting and flashing that is necessary for the purpose of any work described in Regulation 32(1); and
   (b) any design work that is incidental to, or associated with, any work described in this subregulation.

(2) Sanitary work does not include –
   (a) water supply work; or
   (b) drainage work.

Typical Sanitary work
All residential buildings, and nearly all commercial or industrial buildings, need sanitation. Experienced Sanitary plumbers typically do the following (and more):

- Planning the layout of a sanitary system
- Fabricating and installing sanitary stacks used in multi-storey buildings
- Installing piped vents and penetrations ensuring the roof and/or wall penetrations are watertight
- Applying different methods of venting, including air admittance devices
- Installing suspended pipework for fixtures
- Cutting into existing pipework for additional fixtures
- Installing waste pipes for basins, sinks and toilets, including installing pipe work for greywater used to flush toilets
- Installing and connecting sanitary fixtures
- Installing sanitary pumps
- Locating and clearing sanitary drain blockages.

What do Sanitary plumbers need to know and do?
A building’s sanitation typically involves connections to waste disposal or below ground drainage systems, but the work itself is conducted above ground. Plumbers conducting sanitary work need critical knowledge and skills to protect the health and safety of building occupants and the community. What does this mean for you?

As a registered practitioner, you must be able to understand and apply the compliance requirements of Sanitary plumbing work specified in AS3500 National Plumbing and Drainage Code.
To undertake Sanitary work to a safe and competent standard, you must also be able to:

- read a site or building plan, and identify sanitary systems
- fabricate sections of copper, brass or UPVC sanitary stacks
- do oxy-acetylene and manual arc welding, and know how to weld safely
- use the fusion method to weld polyethylene and polypropylene pipes, and know how to weld safely
- work safely on roofs.

**What competencies and experience do you need?**

Each class of plumbing work is described by a set of units of competency. Each unit of competency describes a work outcome, all the knowledge and skills needed to do the work to the expected standard, and how they should be assessed.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) uses the units of competency to assess your skills and experience if you apply to register in a class of plumbing work.

To be eligible to register in the Sanitary class, you must be able to show:

- you have the relevant competencies PLUS recent and relevant experience in work related to the Sanitary class of plumbing, or
- you have knowledge equal to the competencies for Sanitary work, PLUS at least four years of experience in Sanitary work.

Before applying for registration, please read the current approved units of competency for Sanitary.