

About...

Playing it Safe with Plumbing Products

THINKING OF BUYING OR INSTALLING A NEW PLUMBING PRODUCT?

You need to be aware of product standards and regulations that govern the quality and installation of plumbing products in Victoria.

AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS FOR PRODUCTS

The Plumbing Code of Australia (Volume 3 of the National Construction Code Series) specifies plumbing materials and products that need to be approved for use in Australia.

The requirements are designed to protect consumers from poor quality or unsafe products, ensuring your personal safety and investment are protected.

There is also a Victorian license and registration system governing who can install these products so as to protect you from poor or unsafe workmanship.

PRODUCTS THAT MUST BE APPROVED

Certain plumbing materials and products, whether manufactured locally or imported, must be approved and certified as being fit for purpose.

This requirement is supported by the WaterMark certification scheme.

Examples of plumbing products that must be approved include:

- Hot water systems
- Toilets & sanitary ware
- Tapware
- Evaporative air conditioners
- Greywater systems

Any product that comes into contact with drinking water, including fixtures, valves, pipes and fittings must also be approved.

How do I know that my product is approved?

The WaterMark certification trademark (shown below) indicates products approved for use in water supply, sewerage, plumbing and drainage.

Consumers can be confident about the quality and safety of plumbing products that bear the WaterMark logo.



What if I can't find the logo?

If you have purchased a plumbing product overseas, acquired a second-hand product of unclear origin, or wish to check on a product you suspect does not comply with the Plumbing Code of Australia or a relevant product standard, you can search for the product on the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) WaterMark database at:

<http://www.abcb.gov.au/productcertification/watermark/watermark-search>.

Plumbing products that require the WaterMark trademark but do not have it are not approved for use in Victoria and may be unsafe to use.

What if my product is also a gas appliance?

By law, retailers can only sell gas appliances that comply with the relevant safety standards.

Appliances must be labelled or 'badged' to indicate they meet current standards.

Gas appliances that have been certified by an appropriate organisation such as

the Australian Gas Association, SAI Global, IAPMO R&T Oceania or Global-Mark will carry a certification label that indicates the appliance meets certain safety standards in its design and manufacture. These organisations publish listings of appropriately certified appliances.

Where to from here?

Once you have selected a product the product can only be installed by a Licensed or Registered Plumbing Practitioner.

A Licensed Plumbing Practitioner will need to issue a Compliance Certificate for jobs costing \$750 or more (including the cost of the product no matter who supplies the product) to verify that the work has been completed properly.

By using a Licensed or Registered Plumbing Practitioner you can be confident that you will not breach the product manufacturer's warranty conditions for installations.

Need more information?

The Victorian Building Authority does not approve or certify plumbing products.

For more information about the WaterMark requirements for plumbing products, please visit <http://www.abcb.gov.au/product-certification>

For more information about certification services for gas appliances, visit the Gas Technical Regulators Committee at www.gtrc.gov.au/gtrc-links/ or Energy Safe Victoria at <http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/Gas-Professionals/Gas-appliances-and-equipment>