

St. Mary's County
Department of Land Use & Growth Management
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This is a publication of the
St. Mary's County
Department of Land Use & Growth Management
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September 2008

Board of County Commissioners

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

of the

PLUMBING AND FUEL GAS BOARD

for

**ST. MARY'S COUNTY
MARYLAND**

(Revised September 2008)

Establishment of the Board

Notes

In Section 12-206 of the Business Occupation and Professions Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes and empowers the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County to either enforce the State Plumbing Code or adopt and enforce a local plumbing code that meets or exceeds the minimum standards of the Maryland State Plumbing Code for the proper design, acceptable installation, and adequate maintenance of plumbing systems.

In Section 12-503 of the Public Laws of the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes and empowers the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County to adopt, implement and enforce the Maryland Building Performance Standards and to make any local amendments thereto and to charge fees necessary to cover the cost of same.

In Article 25, Section 3 (t-l) of the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes and empowers the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County to provide for inspection and enforcement of the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code and for reasonable charges for permits and inspections.

The Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County, Maryland has the authority, via the Laws of Maryland 1973, Chapter 628, and codified as the Code of Public Local Laws of Maryland, Article 19, (St. Mary's County), Chapter 29 to adopt, amend and repeal rules and regulations pertaining to a St. Mary's County Plumbing Code and to appoint a Plumbing Board.

Authority Having Jurisdiction

The St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board is hereby recognized as the interpreting authority of the currently adopted St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code.

The Department of Land Use and Growth Management is the authority having jurisdiction regarding the enforcement of the currently adopted St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code.

9. **Journey Person Gas Fitter** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to provide fuel gas services while under the direction and control of a master gas fitter.
10. **Apprentice Plumber** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to assist a master plumber in providing plumbing services while under the direction and control of the master plumber in training to become a journey person plumber.
11. **Apprentice Gas Fitter** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to assist a master gas fitter in providing fuel gas services while under the direction and control of the master gas fitter in training to become a journey person gas fitter.
12. **Plumbing and/or Fuel Gas Permit** - Plumbing and/or Fuel Gas “Application for Inspection” submitted to the approved Inspection Agency, as approved by the Board of County Commissioners shall serve as a plumbing and/or fuel gas permit.
13. **Propane Gas Fitter** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to provide propane gas services.

Adopted Codes of St. Mary’s County

2006 National Standard Plumbing Code Illustrated, published by the Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors, National Association

2006 National Fuel Gas Code, ANSI.1, NFPA 54

Purpose of the Board

The strategy of the St. Mary’s County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board is to serve and protect the health and welfare of the citizens of St. Mary’s County. Likewise, the Board shall aid and support the plumbing and fuel gas trades in St. Mary’s County by instilling quality work ethics and safety standards to avoid hazards. The Board shall introduce, amend, educate, and execute the current plumbing code and standards in order to refine the installation practices in St. Mary’s County. Furthermore, the Board can ensure a consistent and reliable enforcement process by communicating all rulings to the Maryland State Plumbing Board.

Meetings

The regular meetings of the Board shall be held on every second Wednesday of each month. All meetings shall be advertised through the St. Mary’s County Public Information Office. Plumbers, gas fitters, and citizens can request in writing to address the Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board on plumbing and fuel gas issues in St. Mary’s County. All requests shall be mailed to:

St. Mary’s County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board
C/O Land Use and Growth Management
P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Four (4) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Board meetings in all cases

unless inconsistent with these by-laws or any special rules of order the Board may adopt.

Amendment of By-laws

Subject to the final approval by the St. Mary's County Legal Department, the by-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted by a vote of the majority of all members of the Board, at any monthly meeting or at any special meeting when the proposed amendment has been sent out in the notice of such meeting.

Jurisdiction of the Board

The jurisdiction of this Board shall govern the installation and repair of work usually done by plumbers and gas fitters within the boundaries of St. Mary's County as follows:

1. Installing, maintaining, altering, removing, or extending a supply of water through piping to a premise or building whether from a public or private source.
2. Installing, maintaining, altering, and removal of plumbing fixtures, appliances and appurtenances intended to receive, and discharge water to the drainage system.
3. Installing, maintaining, altering, removing, and extending a sewer, or drainage system through piping to a premise or building.
4. Installing, maintaining, altering, removing, and extending sewer vents.
5. Installing, maintaining, altering, removing, and extending natural gas or propane gas supply systems, gas venting systems, and gas-fired equipment, appliances, and appurtenances in connection with Natural Gas or Propane Gas.

may affirm, or modify the decision of the Board and the decision of the court shall be final.

Definitions

1. **Plumbing Permit Office** – The St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management.
2. **Approved Inspection Agency** – An agency, entity, contractor, person, company, and/or corporation approved by the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County.
3. **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission** (hereinafter "WSSC") – manages and controls Prince George's and Montgomery Counties water and sewer systems pursuant to the authority granted by the Maryland General Assembly.
4. **St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission** – A quasi-municipal corporation with authority over public water and public sewer including the introduction of industrial waste into the public sewer system in St. Mary's County.
5. **State Board** – The State Board of Plumbing.
6. **Master Plumber** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to provide plumbing services. The Master plumber is qualified to obtain a plumbing permit.
7. **Master Natural Gas Fitter** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to provide natural gas services. The Master Natural Gas Fitter is qualified to obtain a gas permit.
8. **Journey Person Plumber** – An individual who is licensed by the State Board to provide plumbing services while under the direction and control of a master plumber.

Revocation or Suspension of Trade Registration

The Board shall have the power to revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew the trade registration for St. Mary's County of any licensee who shall be found guilty of any one or more of the following:

- Fraud or deceit in obtaining a license
- Aiding, abetting or knowingly conspiring with any person with the intent to evade the provisions of the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code
- Willful and deliberate violations of the laws of St. Mary's County and/or the State of Maryland
- Failure in any material with respect to comply with the provisions of the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code or any other appropriate laws
- Failure to correct any violations promptly, upon notice
- Purpose with the intent to defraud or deceive creditors or the party to the contract
- Abandonment or willful failure to perform, without justification, to any contract for plumbing or gas work, or willful deviation from, or disregard of plans or specifications in any material without consent of the party to the contract

Rulings

Board rulings shall be mailed within thirty (30) days to all parties involved and the State Board of Plumbing, following the Board meeting where the final decision has been rendered.

Appeals

Any person who feels aggrieved by any action of the Board may appeal within thirty (30) days to the Circuit Court of St. Mary's County. The decision of the Board shall be prima-facie correct and the burden of proof shall be on the appellant to show that the Board acted contrary to the law, fraudulently, or arbitrarily. The appellant shall be heard on records and proceedings of the Board, which shall be certified to the court by the Board within fifteen (15) days after service on the Board of a notice to appeal. The court

Composition of the Board

The seven membership Board shall be composed of three (3) persons who hold a current active or inactive Master Plumber's License in St. Mary's County, one (1) person representing the Health Department, one (1) person representing the Propane Industry, one (1) person representing the Natural Gas Industry, and one (1) person representing the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission. Members shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners for St. Mary's County.

Terms

The term of membership is limited to no more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. The term of the seven appointments shall be staggered.

St. Mary's County Trade Registration Card Requirements

St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board requires two licenses to trade within the boundaries of St. Mary's County:

- State of Maryland Plumbing or Gasfitting License
- St. Mary's County Trade Registration.

Reciprocal Licensing

St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board may issue a St. Mary's County Trade Registration Card to plumbers or gasfitters who currently are licensed in the State of Maryland by the State Board of Plumbing as a Master Plumber, Master Gasfitter, or Propane Certificate.

Applying for a Trade Registration Card

Plumbers and gasfitters whom are in good standing with the State of Maryland may apply for a St. Mary's County Trade Registration

Card. Letters of good standing and Certificate of insurance shall be mailed to:

St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board
P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650

The application for a two year St. Mary's County Trade Registration Card shall be submitted with the following fees to the Department of Land Use and Growth Management:

\$50 Master Plumber, Master Gasfitter, Propane Gasfitter
\$50 Late/Renewal fee

Insurance Requirements

A master plumber, master gasfitter or a propane gasfitter may not contract to provide plumbing or gas services unless meeting the minimum State coverage of liability insurance.

\$300,000 Bodily Injury
\$100,000 Property Damage

Renew Your Registration Card

All trade registration card(s) issued by the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board will expire two years from the date of issue. The Board may deny the issue of a trade registration card if the plumber/gasfitter is not in good standing with the State of Maryland, State Board of Plumbing, or the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Board. If a registrant allows his/her registration to elapse or fails to renew within one year of the renewal date shall pay a late fee of \$50 for renewal of the trade registration card.

Disciplinary Actions

Any person who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding

\$5,000.00 dollars or imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or both.

In addition to any other penalties under this title, the Board may impose on a person who violates any provision of this subtitle a penalty not exceeding \$5,000.00 dollars for each violation. In setting the amount of penalty, the board shall consider:

- The gravity of the violation
- The good faith of the violator
- The quantity and gravity of previous violations by the same violator
- The harm caused to the complainant, the public, and the plumbing profession
- The assets of the violator, and any other factors that the Board considers relevant

Violations

Any person(s) performing plumbing or gas fitting work in St. Mary's County which is installed contrary to permit or fails to comply with any provisions of the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code.

Any person(s) performing plumbing work in St. Mary's County for which a current state license is required, but not possessed, may be found in violation of the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code.

Penalties

Parties found in violation of the St. Mary's County Plumbing and Fuel Gas Code may be subject to the following penalties:

- Prosecution under the St. Mary's County Municipal Infraction System.
- Reporting of the infraction to the State Plumbing Board, the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations, and/or the Maryland Attorney General's office for prosecution.