

Top 10 defects

Solar and heat pump hot water system installation

1. **Temperature pressure relief valve**— cold water expansion valve and condensate drain lines not discharging to an approved point
2. **Incorrect type, lack of or inadequate lagging used on:**
 - the circulating line
 - flow and return lines for a split system
 - outlet pipe from storage system
 - valves
3. **Interconnecting the drain and condensate lines together**—heat pump installations
4. **Incorrect valves installed**—correct type of tempering, pressure relief and cold water expansion valves not being installed
5. **Incorrect positioning of isolating valves**— not accessible from floor/ground level
6. **Plumbers not commissioning the hot water system**
7. **Temperature over 50 degrees**— temperature should not exceed 50 degrees at the outlet of all *sanitary fixtures within domestic buildings
8. **Plastic pipe work incorrectly being used**— between solar panels and hot water unit on split systems
9. **Incorrect orientation of solar panels**
10. **Inadequate clipping of flow and return pipes**

Local governments have reported that these are the most common defects being identified on solar and heat pump hot water system (SHP) installations throughout Queensland.

From 1 January 2011, plumbers and provisional plumbers will need an endorsement to install, replace, test, repair and maintain SHPs.

*Sanitary fixtures—any fixture which is intended to be used primarily for personal hygiene purposes.



Penalty Infringement Notices for plumbing and drainage offences

The role of the Plumbing Industry Council is to protect public health, safety and the environment by licensing appropriately qualified plumbers and drainers and where necessary disciplining licensees who perform work that fails to meet relevant technical standards or are in breach of legislation.

On 20 May 2010, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000 was amended to increase PIC investigators and local government officers powers to issue Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) from 15 to 59 offences under the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 and Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003.

As a further deterrence the value of some PINs, also known as fines, have been increased to better align penalties with the nature of the offence. More serious offences may be prosecuted through the court at the discretion of Local Government or the PIC.

The below table sets out examples of the 59 offences for which a fine may be issued:

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002

Section	Section title	Penalty details	Penalty units	Fine (\$)
82(1)	Plans and all plumbing and drainage work or on-site sewage work must comply	Person who carries out any plumbing or drainage work or on-site sewerage work must ensure the work complies with the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003 (SPDR)	10	1000
119	Offences by persons not holding appropriate licence	Person must not perform, direct or supervise work for which a licence is required unless the person holds a licence that entitles them to perform the work	10	1000
120	Offence of directing or supervising unlicensed work	Licensed person for work must not direct or supervise work for which a licence is required unless the person holds a licence that entitles them to perform the work	10	1000
124	Restriction on advertising for the carrying out of particular work	Person must not advertise that the person is available to carry out plumbing and drainage work, other than unregulated work, unless the person is the holder of a licence that entitles them to carry out the work	6	600

Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003

Section	Section title	Penalty details	Penalty units	Fine (\$)
19(2)	Stages for assessment of regulated work	Person must request an assessment of the work at each of the applicable stages within 7 days after the work is completed	3	300
19B	Obligations of responsible person for on-site sewerage work	Responsible person must notify of a change of responsible person	2	200
37	Inspection and testing of backflow prevention devices	Person who inspects or tests a backflow prevention device must, within 10 business days, give the Local Government written results of the inspection or test	1	100

For further information and a full list of the existing and new penalties, including the penalty values refer to newsflash 427 at www.dlgp.qld.gov.au or alternatively contact the department—details below.

