

**Plumbing Board**  
**c/o Department of Labor and Industry**  
**443 Lafayette Road North**  
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**NOTICE OF FINAL INTERPRETATION**

On January 25, 2022, the Minnesota Plumbing Board issued a Final Interpretation, which is printed below, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §§ 326B.435, subd. 2(a)(4), and 326B.127, subd. 5.

Any person aggrieved by this Final Interpretation may appeal it within 30 days of its issuance in accordance with Minnesota Statutes chapter 14.

Questions may be directed to Suzanne Todnem, telephone number: 651-284-5851, email: [suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.todnem@state.mn.us).

**FINAL INTERPRETATION**

Inquiry:	PB0154
Subject:	Oil and Flammable Liquid Interceptors
Code Reference:	2020 Minnesota Plumbing Code: 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) sections 1017 and 1017.1, as incorporated in the Minnesota Plumbing Code by Minnesota Rules, part 4714.0050.
Submitted by:	Cassie Koch, AIA Reztark 601 Main Street, Suite 200 Cincinnati, OH 45202
Approved by:	Minnesota Plumbing Board, by Richard Becker, P.E., Chair
Date Received:	January 12, 2022
Issue Date:	January 25, 2022

**Question 1:** Does the Plumbing Code prohibit installation of interceptors on the exterior of buildings?

**Answer:** No, the Plumbing Code does not prohibit installation of interceptors on the exterior of buildings. The tank may be located on the building exterior but must also meet other Plumbing Code requirements such as it must be accessible, not subject to freezing, and any other Code requirements.

**Analysis:** The Plumbing Code does not explicitly state that interceptors must be on the interior of buildings nor does it explicitly state that interceptors cannot be located on the exterior of buildings. The Department interpreted language that required venting “to the outer air” and “through a sidewall,” along with other considerations, to mean that the interceptor must be

located within the interior of the building. Other considerations included Minnesota’s cold climate and other Plumbing Code requirements such as requiring the interceptors be “readily accessible” for required cleanout and maintenance and not subject to freezing. The Board interpreted section 1017.1 to allow interceptors to be located on the exterior of buildings but that the interceptors must continue to meet all other code requirements including readily accessible, not subject to freezing and any other applicable Code requirements.

**Question 2:** Are drains that discharge to a flammable waste interceptor allowed to discharge to treatment equipment prior to the flammable waste interceptor?

**Answer:** No, the Plumbing Code requires drains to discharge directly to the flammable waste interceptor prior to draining to any other point.

**Analysis:** The Plumbing Code requires vehicle wash facilities be provided with an oil or flammable liquid interceptor that shall be connected to necessary floor drains. The Department interpreted this language to require the drains from a vehicle wash facility to discharge to an oil or flammable liquid interceptor prior to discharge to any waste water treatment equipment. The Board also interprets this language to require drains from a vehicle wash facility to discharge to an oil or flammable liquid interceptor prior to discharge to waste water treatment equipment.

**Commentary:** This request for interpretation was submitted on or about January 12, 2022. The Board considered this request for interpretation at the regular meeting of the Board on January 18, 2022. All parties had an opportunity to be heard. As required by Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.127, subd. 5, the Minnesota Plumbing Board will consider this final interpretation for adoption as part of the Minnesota Plumbing Code.



Richard Becker, P.E., Chair  
Minnesota Plumbing Board