

Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners Candidate Handbook

August 2025



STATE LICENSING INFORMATION

Candidates may contact the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners with questions about obtaining or maintaining a license after the examination has been passed.

Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE)

7915 Cameron Road
Austin, TX 78754

Phone
(512) 936-5200

Website
tsbpe.texas.gov

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

Candidates may contact Pearson VUE with questions about this handbook or about an upcoming examination.

Pearson VUE Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

5601 Green Valley Drive
Bloomington, MN 55437

Phone
(888) 304-3589

Email
pearsonvuecustomerservice@pearson.com

Website
www.pearsonvue.com

Quick Reference

Reservations

Before making an exam reservation

Candidates should thoroughly review this handbook, which contains examination review courses and important information regarding eligibility and the examination and licensing application process.

Making an Exam Reservation

Once they receive their "Authorization to Test" email, candidates may make their exam reservation by either visiting <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html> or by calling Pearson VUE at (888) 304-3589.

Candidates must make an online or phone reservation for computer-based/written examinations at <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html> or phone reservation at (888) 304-3589 at least 24 hours before the desired examination date. Practical examination dates must be reserved at least ten days before the desired exam date.

Walk-in examinations are not available.

Schedules and Fees

Test center locations

A list of test centers appears on the back cover of this handbook. Candidates should contact Pearson VUE to confirm specific locations and schedules. Practical examinations are administered at the TSBPE's Austin or Waco testing centers only.

Exam fees

Exam fees must be paid at the time of reservation by credit card, debit card, or voucher. Payment will not be accepted at the test center.

Examination fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Fees paid to Pearson VUE are in addition to any other fees for a practical exam as required by TSBPE.

Exam Day

What to bring to the exam

Candidates should bring to the examination center a current government-issued photo ID. A complete list appears in **What to Bring**.

Exam procedures

Candidates should report to the test center at least **30** minutes before the examination begins to complete registration. Each candidate will leave the test center with an official score report in hand.

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Overview

The candidate handbook is a useful tool in preparing for an examination.

It is highly recommended that the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners Candidate Handbook be reviewed, with special attention given to the examination reviews, before taking the examination. (Examination reviews can be found at tsbpe.texas.gov/printableforms under "Examination Review Courses."

Individuals who wish to obtain a plumbing license in the state of Texas must:

1. **Apply either through the TSBPE Online Licensing System or by downloading the applicable application from the TSBPE website (see "Printable Forms" on tsbpe.texas.gov) and sending it to the TSBPE via US Mail. After review and approval, Pearson VUE will send your "Authorization to Test" to the email address you provide on the application. The Authorization to Test email confirms your eligibility to proceed with the Computer Based Testing program.**

Refer to **State Licensing Requirements** for additional information on eligibility requirements for each license type.

2. **Complete an examination request and pay the examination fee.**

Make an exam reservation either online at <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html>.

3. **Go to the test center.**

Go to the test center on the day of the examination, bringing all required materials.

4. After successful completion of the computer-based/written examination.

*** If your exam DOES NOT include a practical portion.**

Congratulations! You may now proceed to the TSBPE Online Licensing System (vo.licensing

hpc.texas.gov) and pay the required initial license fee. Your wall certificate and pocket card will be delivered to you via US Mail in 10-15 business days.

*** If your exam includes a practical portion.**

You will receive a second Authorization to Test via email in about ten days.

Introduction

Contact Information

Candidates may contact Pearson VUE with questions about this handbook or an examination.

**Pearson VUE/Texas State
Board of Plumbing Examiners**
5601 Green Valley Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437

Phone: (888) 304-3589
Website: www.pearsonvue.com
Email: pearsonvuecustomerservice@pearson.com

Live Chat is available to address your support inquiries and is the quickest way to reach a customer service agent. It is available from 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM Central Time, Monday through Friday, subject to change during locally designated holidays.

Please visit <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html#contact> for further information.

Candidates may contact the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners with questions about obtaining or maintaining a license.

Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners
7915 Cameron Rd., Austin, TX 78754

Phone: (512) 936-5200
Website: <https://tsbpe.texas.gov/contact>

Licensure Process

There are four types of plumbing licenses: Tradesman Plumber- Limited, Journeyman, Master, and Plumbing Inspector. To obtain a license, you must meet all eligibility requirements including: taking and passing an examination, and paying a fee. Licenses renew annually. When you are issued your license for the

first time, you will be assigned a random expiration date anywhere from 6–18 months from the date you passed your licensure exam. All licensees must complete six hours of continuing professional education each year to be eligible to renew.

Exam Reviews

Examination review courses are available for Tradesman, Journeyman, Master, and Plumber Inspector exams and can be found at tsbpe.texas.gov/printableforms.

State Licensing Requirements

The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners has established the requirements for qualifications for four types of plumber licenses and three types of Endorsements. The license types are: Tradesman Plumber-Limited, Journeyman, Master, and, Plumbing Inspector. The Endorsements are: Medical Gas Installation, Water Supply Protection Specialist, and the Residential Fire Protection Specialist.

Applicants should read this candidate handbook and any other information provided by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners before attempting to make a reservation for any licensing examination. Applicants must meet all eligibility and experience requirements and receive an Authorization to Test email from Pearson VUE before they make an examination reservation. Please note that the Tradesman and Journeyman exams require a practical portion after successful completion of the written/computer-based portion of the examination in most cases. In addition, the Medical Gas Installation Endorsement examination also requires a practical portion after successfully completing the written examination. ALL examinations require that the applicant provide proof of obtaining fingerprints. More information on obtaining your fingerprints can be found at: tsbpe.texas.gov/fingerprint-instructions-for-plumbers

Licenses

How to Apply Online

The quickest and easiest way to apply for any examination is via the State of Texas Online Licensing System at <https://vo.licensing.hpc.texas.gov>. If you don't have an existing account, you can create one from that page by clicking "Begin here for sign-up." Note: You will need your Social Security number, date of birth, and the zip code you have on file with the TSBPE to create an account.

Once you have logged in you will be taken to a page called the "Quick Start Menu." From there, click "Choose an application" in the Manage Your License Information section and then choose the exam you would like to take from the drop-down menu. From there, follow the instructions to confirm your personal information, upload any relevant documentation, and to make a payment. Once the payment is successful, and assuming you provided all necessary information, you should receive your notice of Authorization to Test.

Paper applications are also available; links to the relevant paperwork are provided in each of the following license-specific sections.

Tradesman Plumber-Limited

The eligibility requirements for the Tradesman Plumber-Limited exam are as follows:

- you are a current citizen or national of the United States or an immigrant eligible to work in the State of Texas;
- you are registered as a Plumber's Apprentice in Texas;
- you have at least 4,000 hours of verifiable experience working in the plumbing trade in Texas or out-of state;
- you have completed a 24-hour training course approved by the TSBPE or you are enrolled in or have completed a training program approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship; and
- you have obtained your fingerprints for review and approval.

To apply for the Tradesman Plumber-Limited exam, follow the instructions in the "How to Apply Online" section above. You can also submit your application via US mail using a paper application form. The fee to apply for the Tradesman Plumber-Limited Examination is \$36.

Supporting documentation required:

- **Employer Certification Form**
- **Supplemental Criminal History Information Form** (if you ever have been convicted of a felony)

The TSBPE will receive your computer-based/written score from Pearson VUE within 48 hours. Please allow additional time for holidays and non-business days. Upon receipt and review of your score, you will receive a second Authorization to Test email from Pearson VUE, clearing the way for you to schedule your practical exam in either Austin or Waco

The practical portion of your examination includes a hands-on portion. The TSBPE furnishes all materials needed to take the examination. Short pants and open toed shoes are not allowed to be worn in the examination area. NO EXCEPTIONS. Please come prepared to demonstrate your practical installation abilities.

Journeyman

The eligibility requirements for the Journeyman exam are as follows:

- you are a current citizen or national of the United States or an immigrant eligible to work in the State of Texas;
- you are currently registered as a Plumbers Apprentice or currently licensed as a Tradesman Plumber-Limited in Texas or currently licensed as Journeyman Plumber or Master Plumber in another state;
- you have at least 8,000 hours of experience working in the plumbing trade;
- you have completed a 48-hour training course* approved by the TSBPE or you are enrolled and in or have completed a training program approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship; and

- your fingerprints have been reviewed and approved by the TSBPE.

Note: Current Louisiana and Arkansas licensees may obtain a license through reciprocity without examination. See the TSBPE website for details.

** If you hold a Journeyman or Master Plumber License issued to you by another state, you do not have to complete the 48-hour training program.*

To apply for the Journeyman exam, follow the instructions in the "How to Apply Online" section on page 1. You can also submit your application via US mail using "Journeyman Plumber Examination Application" found on the TSBPE homepage under "printable Forms." The fee to apply for the Journeyman Plumber Examination is \$40.

Supporting documentation required:

- **Employer Certification Form**
- **Supplemental Criminal History Information Form** (if you have ever been convicted of a felony)

Once you have successfully passed both the written and practical portions of the exam you must submit a \$40 initial license fee to obtain your certificate of licensure and pocket card. This fee will appear in your TSBPE online account as an initial fee. If you are not able to pay the initial fee online, you may send a copy of your pass/congratulations letter along with a check or money order to TSBPE, 7915 Cameron Road, Austin, Texas 78754.

Monies received without a copy of the letter will NOT be processed and will be returned to the sender.

NOTE: If you are a Tradesman moving up to a Journeyman you are not required to retake the practical portion of the exam and may proceed to pay your initial license fee as described above.

Master

The eligibility requirements for the Master exam are as follows:

- you are a current citizen or national of the United States or an immigrant eligible to work in the State of Texas;
- you are currently licensed as:

- a Journeyman Plumber in Texas or another state and have held your license for at least four years;
- a Journeyman Plumber in Texas or another state, have held your license for at least one year, and have successfully completed a training program approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship;
- a Master Plumber in another state and previously held a Journeyman Plumber License for at least four years;
- a Master Plumber in another state, holding a Journeyman Plumber License for at least one year, and has successfully completed a training program approved by the United States Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship.
- you have obtained your fingerprints for review and approval.

To apply for the Master exam, follow the instructions in the "How to Apply Online" section on page 1. You can also submit your application via US mail using this application form. The fee to apply for the Master Plumber Examination is \$175.

Supporting documentation required:

- **Supplemental Criminal History Information Form** (if you have ever been convicted of a felony)

Once you have successfully passed the examination you must submit a \$75 initial license fee to obtain your certificate of licensure and pocket card. This fee will appear in your TSBPE online account as an initial fee. If you simply are not able to pay the initial fee online you may send a copy of your pass/congratulations letter along with a check or money order to TSBPE, 7915 Cameron Road, Austin, Texas 78754.

Note that monies received without a copy of the letter will NOT be processed and will be returned to the sender.

Plumbing Inspector (*coming soon*)

The eligibility requirements for the Plumbing Inspector exam are as follows:

- you are a current citizen or national of the United States or an immigrant eligible to work in the State of Texas;
- you have completed 500 hours of training and experience in the plumbing industry; or
- you are currently licensed as:
 - a Master Plumber in Texas;
 - a Journeyman Plumber in Texas;
 - a Professional Engineer in Texas;
 - an Architect in Texas; or
 - a Plumbing Inspector in another state that has licensing requirements substantially equivalent to the licensing requirements of the TSBPE.
- your fingerprints have been submitted for review and approval.

To apply for the Inspector exam, follow the instructions in the "How to Apply Online" section above. You can also submit your application via US mail using this application form. The fee to apply for the Plumbing Inspector Examination is \$55.

Supporting documentation required:

- **Plumbing Inspector Employer Certification Form**
- **Supplemental Criminal History Information Form** (if you have ever been convicted of a felony)

Once you have successfully passed the examination you must submit a \$27.50 initial license fee to obtain your certificate of licensure and pocket card. This fee will appear in your TSBPE online account as an initial fee. If you are not able to pay the initial fee online, you may send a copy of your pass/congratulations letter along with a check or money order to TSBPE, 7915 Cameron Road, Austin, Texas 78754.

Note that monies received without a copy of the letter will NOT be processed and will be returned to the sender.

Endorsements

ALL endorsement examinations require that the applicant obtain their fingerprints for review by the TSBPE if not previously done on another examination. Fingerprinting is typically a one-time process.

Medical Gas Piping Installation

The eligibility requirements for the Medical Gas Piping Installation exam are as follows:

- you are currently licensed as a Master Plumber, Journeyman Plumber, or Plumbing Inspector in Texas; and
- you have completed a 24-hour training course approved by the TSBPE.

Multipurpose Residential Fire Protection Specialist *(coming soon)*

The eligibility requirements for the Multipurpose Residential Fire Protection Specialist exam are as follows:

- you are currently licensed as a Master Plumber, Journeyman Plumber, or Plumbing Inspector in Texas; and
- you have completed a 24-hour training course approved by the TSBPE or you hold a current RME-General or RME-Dwelling License issued by the State Fire Marshal.

Water Supply Protection Specialist

The eligibility requirements for the Water Supply Protection Specialist exam are as follows:

- you are currently licensed as a Master Plumber, Journeyman Plumber, or Plumbing Inspector in Texas; and
- you have completed a 24-hour training course approved by the TSBPE.

Reservations

Making an Exam Reservation

Walk-in examinations are not available. Online reservations are the most efficient way for candidates to schedule their examination. Candidates must go to <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html> to make an online reservation for an examination. First-time users are required to create an account. The candidate will provide their First Name, Last Name, and TSBPE Entity ID number (this number is included on their Authorization to Test letter).

You must obtain your Authorization to Test letter prior to registering to take an examination. This letter will only be provided once Pearson VUE receives approval from the TSBPE. Step-by-step instructions will lead the candidate through the rest of the examination reservation process.

Candidates must make an online or phone reservation at least 24 hours before the desired examination date.

Before making a reservation, candidates should have the following:

- Legal name as indicated on your government issued photo ID
- Physical mailing address, email address, and daytime telephone number
- Entity ID # as provided on the Authorization-To-Test letter received from Pearson VUE
- The name of the examination(s)
- The preferred examination date and test center location (a list appears on the back cover of this handbook)

As a reminder:

- Both types of exams, computer-based/written and practical, are scheduled through Pearson VUE.
- All computer-based/written exams are administered at Pearson VUE testing centers.
- All practical examinations are administered at the TSBPE's Austin and Waco testing centers.

Test Center Locations

A list of test centers appears on the back cover of this handbook. In addition, candidates may review the test center locations by going to <https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/find/testcenter/tsbpe>. If the candidate has questions regarding the confirmation of specific locations and/or examination schedules, please contact Pearson VUE.

Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners examinations are now available at select Pearson VUE test centers on military installations across the globe. Service members, dependents, and contractors with authorized base access who want to gain Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners licensure from their duty station or assignment in another state and foreign deployment will have the option to take their exams without having to leave their base. In addition to Pearson VUE's standard ID policy, candidates must have valid government ID and authorization to gain access to military testing sites. Civilians without valid government ID will be turned away by the test center and/or military entrance gate security.

To locate a Pearson VUE authorized testing center, visit <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html> and select the "Find an on-base test center" link on the lower right-hand side of the page.

Exam Fees

The examination fee must be paid at the time of reservation by credit card, debit card, or voucher. Payment will not be accepted at the test center, nor will a single payment that covers more than one candidate be accepted. See **Available Exams and Time Allotted** for exam fees.

Candidates are responsible for knowing all regulations regarding fees and examination scheduling as presented here. Examination fees are non-refundable and non-transferable, except as detailed in **Change/Cancel Policy**.

Vouchers

Vouchers offer another convenient way to pay for tests. Vouchers can be purchased online at <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/test-centers/voucher-store.html> by credit card either as single vouchers or

in volume. To redeem a voucher as payment when scheduling a test, simply indicate voucher as the payment method and provide the voucher number. All vouchers are pre-paid. Vouchers are non-refundable and non-returnable.

Vouchers expire 12 months from the date they are issued. Voucher expiration dates cannot be extended. The exam must be taken by the expiration date printed on the voucher.

Change/Cancel Policy

Candidates should call Pearson VUE at (888) 304-3589 at least 48 hours before the examination to change or cancel a reservation. Candidates who change or cancel a reservation with proper notice may either transfer their fees to a new reservation or request a refund. **Candidates who change or cancel their reservations without proper notice will forfeit the examination fee.** Refunds for credit/debit cards are immediate, while refunds for vouchers will be processed in two to three weeks.

Candidates are individually liable for the full amount of the examination fee once a reservation has been made, whether individually or by a third party.

Absence/Lateness Policy

Candidates who are late to or absent from an examination may be excused for the following reasons:

- Illness of the candidate or of the candidate's immediate family member
- Death in the immediate family
- Disabling traffic accident
- Court appearance or jury duty
- Military duty
- Weather emergency

A case number will be assigned and instructions provided for emailing supporting documentation. **Candidates absent from or late to an exam who have not changed or canceled the reservation according to the Change/Cancel policy will not be admitted to the exam and will forfeit the exam fee.**

Weather Delays and Cancellations

If severe weather or a natural disaster makes the Pearson VUE test center inaccessible or unsafe, the examination may be delayed or canceled. Pearson VUE will notify and reschedule candidates in the case of severe weather.

Accommodations

Pearson VUE complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended. The purpose of accommodations is to provide candidates with full access to the test. Accommodations are not a guarantee of improved performance or test completion. Pearson VUE provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities who demonstrate a need for accommodations.

Test accommodations may include things such as:

- A separate testing room
- Extra testing time

Test accommodations are individualized and considered on a case-by-case basis. All candidates who are requesting accommodations because of a disability must provide appropriate documentation of their condition and how it is expected to affect their ability to take the test under standard conditions. This may include:

- Supporting documentation from the professional who diagnosed the condition, including the credentials that qualify the professional to make this diagnosis
- A description of past accommodations the candidate has received

The steps to follow when requesting test accommodations vary, depending on your test program sponsor. To begin, go to <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/test-takers/accommodations.html>, and then select your test program sponsor from the alphabetized list. Candidates who have additional questions concerning test accommodations may contact the ADA Coordinator at accommodation-spearsonvue@pearson.com.

Accommodations for practical exams must be submitted directly to TSBPE. Applicants must submit a completed Accommodation form available by calling (512) 936-5232.

Exam Day

What to Bring

Required Materials

Candidates who do not present the required items will be denied admission to the examination, will be considered absent, and will forfeit the examination fee.

Acceptable Forms of Candidate Identification

Candidates must present one form of current signature identification. The name on the identification must exactly match the name on the registration. The primary identification must be government issued and photo-bearing with a signature, and the secondary identification must contain a valid signature. Identification must be in English.

The TSBPE recommends you also bring: water, and snacks/lunch items if you're taking the Master or Inspector exam due to the length of the test.

Primary ID (with photograph and signature, not expired)

- Government-issued Driver's license
- U.S. Department of State Driver's license
- U.S. Learner's permit (plastic card only with photo and signature)
- National/State/Country Identification Card
- Passport
- Passport card
- Military ID
- Military ID for spouses and dependents
- Alien Registration Card (Green Card, Permanent Resident Visa)

If the ID presented has an embedded signature that is not visible (microchip), or is difficult or impossible to read, the candidate must present another form of identification from the Primary ID list that contains a visible signature.

Pearson VUE does not recognize grace periods. For example, if a candidate's driver's license expired yesterday and the state allows a 30-day grace period for renewing the ID, the ID is considered to be expired.

Exam Procedures

Candidates should report to the test center thirty (30) minutes before the examination and check in with the test center administrator. The candidate's identification and other documentation will be reviewed and they will be photographed for the score report.

Candidates are required to review and sign a Candidate Rules Agreement form. If the Candidate Rules Agreement is not followed and/or cheating or tampering with the examination is suspected, the incident will be reported as such and the appropriate action will be taken. The examination fee will not be refunded, the exam may be determined invalid, and/or the state may not issue the license.

Candidates must take a tutorial on the computer on which the examination will be administered. The time spent on this tutorial will not reduce the examination time. The examination administrators will answer questions regarding use of the computer, but candidates should be aware that the administrators are not familiar with the content of the examinations or with the state's licensing requirements.

Candidates may begin the examination once they are familiar with the computer. The examination begins the moment a candidate looks at the first examination question. The examination will end automatically after the examination time has expired, and candidates will leave the test center with their official scores in hand.

For security purposes, Pearson VUE will capture each candidate's digital signature and photograph upon check-in.

Available Exams and Time Allotted

EXAM	PORTION	# ITEMS	TIME (in minutes)	EXAM FEE	INITIAL LICENSE FEE
Tradesman Plumber Limited License	Written	85	120	\$68.50	\$35.00
	Practical	6	240	\$36.00	
Journeyman Plumber License	Written	100	120	\$68.50	\$40.00
	Practical	6	240	\$40.00	
Master Plumber License	Written only	308	360 (plus 30 minute break)	\$128.50	\$75.00
Journeyman Medical Gas Piping Installation Endorsement	Written	150	180	\$68.50	\$14.00
	Practical	2	120	\$27.00	
Master Medical Gas Piping Installation Endorsement	Written	150	180	\$68.50	\$55.00
	Practical	2	120	\$80.00	
Inspector Medical Gas Piping Installation Endorsement	Written only	150	180	\$68.50	\$27.50
Journeyman Multipurpose Residential Fire Protection Sprinkler Specialist Endorsement (<i>coming soon</i>)	Written only	130	180	\$68.50	\$55.00
Master Multipurpose Residential Fire Protection Sprinkler Specialist Endorsement (<i>coming soon</i>)	Written only	130	180	\$68.50	\$14.00
Inspector Multipurpose Residential Fire Protection Sprinkler Specialist Endorsement (<i>coming soon</i>)	Written only	130	180	\$68.50	\$27.50
Journeyman Water Supply Protection Specialist Endorsement	Written only	100	120	\$68.50	\$14.00
Master Water Supply Protection Specialist Endorsement	Written only	100	120	\$68.50	\$55.00
Inspector Water Supply Protection Specialist Endorsement	Written only	100	120	\$68.50	\$27.50

Score Reporting

When candidates complete the examination, they will receive a score report marked “pass” or “fail.” If there is a practical component of the exam, the exam is not considered to have an overall pass until both the written and practical portions have been passed.

Retaking the Exam

Candidates who fail the examination will receive a score report that includes a numeric score and diagnostic information relating to the failed portion of the examination, as well as information about re-examination.

Reservations for re-examination cannot be made at the test center, and candidates must wait 24 hours before scheduling. The fee must be paid at the time of reservation by credit card, debit card, or voucher. **Payment will not be accepted at the test center, nor will a single payment that covers more than one candidate be accepted.**

Your initial examination authorization is good for up to five attempts on the written portion of the examination. Please return to your Pearson VUE account at: <https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/tsbpe.html> to schedule your next attempt. Please note that you must wait at least 30 days after your first failure, 60 days on a second failure, and 90 days on each failure thereafter.

Do not reapply for additional authorization through TSBPE until you have exhausted your five attempts with the exam provider. Your attempts must be completed within one year from the initial TSBPE application authorization. You must successfully complete the written portion of your examination before you will be scheduled for the practical portion of your examination.

Review of Exams

For security reasons, examination questions are not available to candidates for review.

Score Explanation

Percent Score

You must achieve a score of 70% to pass the exam. The diagnostic information on the score report provides how you performed in each content area. The content area information provided is meant only as a general guide for study purposes.

Please note that you should review all content areas before retaking the exam.

Duplicate Score Reports

For written exams taken May 17, 2022 or later, log into your Pearson VUE account to obtain your score report.

For score reports related to exams taken prior to May 17, 2022, contact TSBPE at exams@tsbpe.texas.gov. Score reports will only be sent to the email address of record.

Pearson VUE Test Center Policies

The following policies are observed at each test center. **Candidates who violate any of these policies will not be permitted to finish the examination and will be dismissed from the test center, forfeiting the examination fee.**

- **No personal items are allowed in the testing room.** Personal items include but are not limited to cellular phones, hand-held computers or other electronic devices, pagers, watches, wallets, purses, firearms or other weapons, hats, bags, coats, books, and/or notes, pens or pencils.
- You will be asked to empty your pockets for the purpose of allowing the Test administrator to verify that nothing is in them. If you have hair that covers your ears, you may be asked to show them for the purpose of allowing the TA to verify that no electronic devices are present. The TA may also ask you to roll up your sleeves to verify that you have no writings on your arms. Before you enter the testing room, you will be asked to pat yourself down (for

example: arms, legs, waistline) to show there is nothing hidden on your body.

- Candidates must store all personal items in a secure area as indicated by the administrator, or return items to their vehicles. All electronic devices must be turned off before storing them in a locker. **The test center is not responsible for lost, stolen, or misplaced personal items.**
- Studying **is not** allowed in the test center. Visitors, children, family, or friends **are not** allowed in the test center.
- Dictionaries, books, papers (including scratch paper), and reference materials are not permitted in the examination room and candidates are strongly urged not to bring such materials to the test center. When the candidate enters and is seated in the testing room, the test administrator will provide the candidate with materials to make notes and any other items specified by the exam sponsor. **The candidate may not write on these items before the exam begins or remove these items from the testing room.**
- Eating, drinking, chewing gum, smoking, and/or making noise that creates a disturbance for other candidates is prohibited during the exam.
- Break policies are established by the exam sponsor. Most sponsors allow unscheduled breaks. To request an unscheduled break, the candidate **must** raise his or her hand to get the administrator's attention. **The exam clock will not stop while the candidate is taking a break on any exam. Exception will be the Master and Inspector that have specific break times but does not prohibit the candidate from taking unscheduled breaks but candidate should be aware of their time.**
- Candidates must leave the testing room for all breaks. However, candidates **are not permitted to leave the floor or building for any reason during this time, unless specified by the administrator and the exam sponsor.** If a candidate is discovered to have left the floor or building, he or she will not be permitted to proceed with the examination and may forfeit the exam fees.
- While taking a break, candidates are permitted

to access personal items that are being stored during the exam only if necessary—for example, personal medication that must be taken at a specific time. **However, a candidate must receive permission from the administrator prior to accessing personal items that have been stored.** Candidates are not allowed access to other items, including but not limited to cellular phones, exam notes, and study guides, unless the exam sponsor specifically permits this.

- Any candidate discovered causing a disturbance of any kind or engaging in any kind of misconduct—giving or receiving help; using notes, books, or other aids; taking part in an act of impersonation; or removing examination materials or notes from the examination room—will be summarily dismissed from the examination and will be reported to the state licensing agency. Decisions regarding disciplinary measures are the responsibility of the state licensing agency.

Breaks

All candidates are permitted one 30-minute pause-the-clock and necessary unscheduled breaks.

Pause-the-Clock (Master Plumber and Plumbing Inspector exams)

A 30-minute pause-the-clock is built into the exam and can be used at the candidate's own discretion. The 30-minute pause-the-clock is optional for the candidate. If the candidate chooses to take the pause-the-clock, he/she must raise his/her hand to get the administrator's attention before taking the break.

During the pause-the-clock break, candidates are only allowed to remove items from his or her locker with prior permission from the test administrator. Note: Candidates are not allowed to eat in the test center.

During the pause-the-clock, candidates are not allowed to leave the floor or building. If a candidate decides to take the 30-minute break, he/she will be responsible for monitoring his/her allotted time. The exam will automatically begin at the portion where the candidate left. The candidate's allotted time for

the exam will begin to count down after the 30-minute break and will continue to do so even if the candidate has not returned on time to resume testing after the break.

Unscheduled Breaks

Unscheduled breaks are also available for the candidate. Candidates must raise their hand to get the administrator's attention before taking a break.

During unscheduled breaks, candidates are not allowed to remove items from their locker, unless they require personal items such as medication that must be taken at a specific time. If this is the case, the candidate must receive prior permission from the test administrator before taking items from the locker. During unscheduled breaks, candidates are not allowed access to other items, including but not limited to cellular phones, exam notes, and study guides.

During unscheduled breaks, candidates are not allowed to leave the floor or building for any reason. If the candidate is discovered to have left the floor or building, he/she will not be permitted to proceed with the examination and may forfeit the exam fees.

Preparing for the Exam

Exam Content

The Exam Content is developed and reviewed at each code change cycle by licensed staff members with knowledge of the plumbing industry.

Study Materials

Neither the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) nor Pearson VUE specifically endorses any particular study materials for the plumbing examinations; however, there are some suggested materials listed below for each type of plumbing examination. When obtaining study materials, please obtain the latest edition of the listed textbooks as they should cover the topics referenced within the content outlines.

Master Plumber Examination Review Course

https://tsbpe.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/TSBPE_Master_ReviewCourse.pdf

Tradesman Plumber-Limited Licensee Examination Review Course

https://tsbpe.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/documents/TSBPE_Tradesman_ReviewCourse.pdf

Candidates should study the Plumbing License Law, rules of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners and either the:

- 2018 International Plumbing Code and 2018 International Fuel Gas Code, English and Spanish editions available by calling 800-786-4452 or by visiting www.iccsafe.org

OR the

- 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code, available by calling 800-854-2766 or website address is <http://iapmostore.org>

How to Study the Plumbing License Law and Board Rules

The Plumbing License Law and Board Rules contain the regulations for persons who work in the plumbing industry to follow. The Plumber's Apprentice should be familiar with all of these regulations. However, for the purposes of preparing for the Journeyman Plumber examination, the Plumber's Apprentice should study the Plumbing License Law, Sections 1301.351, 1301.356, 1301.403, 1301.404, 1301.452, 1301.502, 1301.508, 1301.701, 1301.702 and the Board Rules, Sections 361.1, 365.1, 367.2, 367.4, 367.5 and 367.7.

The Plumbing License Law and Board Rules are available on the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners website at tsbpe.texas.gov, or by calling the Board's office at 512-936-5200.

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

A person may not install pipe used solely to transport gasses for medical purposes unless the person is:

- A. a licensed Master or Journeyman Plumber under the Plumbing License Law.
- B. licensed as a Master or Journeyman Plumber and holds a Medical Gas Piping Installation Endorsement under the Plumbing License Law.
- C. at least an apprentice registered with the Board.
- D. on a job where a licensed Master Plumber is working nearby

How to Study the Plumbing Codes and Sample Test Questions

The examination contains questions pertaining to plumbing of one- and two-family dwellings, as well as commercial installations.

In some instances, a plumbing code may refer to a manufacturer's recommendations on a particular subject. For the purposes of the examination, the applicant needs to be familiar with the manufacturer recommendations for the installation of solvent cemented P.V.C. joints, steel pipe threaded/screwed joints, soldered and brazed copper joints and compression band type cast iron joints. These manufacturer recommendations are found in the form of the manufacturer instructions for the assembly of the particular product. For example, the label on most cans of P.V.C. primer and solvent cement have instructions for the proper preparation of the pipe and application of the primer and solvent cement. Manufacturer recommendations are also found on the labels of most pipe joint compounds for threaded/screwed joints and soldering fluxes for copper soldered joints. Manufacturer recommendations for compression band type cast iron joints are supplied with the bands or from the supplier or manufacturer.

The plumbing codes are separated into chapters according to subjects. Some subjects are covered in more than one chapter, depending on which code is chosen to study. For example, installation of methods for plumbing materials are generally covered in the General Regulations chapter, but more specific methods for installing solvent cemented P.V.C. water pipe, may be found in the chapter on Water Supply and Distribution.

When preparing for the examination, the applicant should pay particular attention to the following chapters and subject matter listed under each chapter:

Chapter on Definitions

Studying a plumbing code should begin with learning and understanding the proper plumbing terms and their meanings found in the chapter on definitions. When the proper terms and their meanings are known and understood, the applicant will find the other chapters in the plumbing code much easier to understand. The plumbing codes use only correct plumbing terms and do not contain any slang terms.

Since the examination is based on the plumbing codes, only correct terms are used in the examination.

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

That part of the drainage system which extends from the end of the building drain and conveys its discharge to a public sewer, private sewer, individual sewage - disposal system or other point of disposal is a:

- A. waste pipe
- B. soil stack
- C. building sewer
- D. branch

Chapter on General Regulations or General Requirements

The chapter on general regulations or general requirements, generally addresses the requirements for the installation of plumbing. Some of the subjects in this chapter may be more specifically addressed in the other chapters of the code. Some of the subjects covered in this chapter include:

- types of materials and fixtures which may and may not be used;
- installation methods which may and may not be used;
- protection of piping from corrosion, stress, freezing and physical damage;
- proper bedding, support and protection of pipe installed in trenches and tunnels;
- limitations on cutting, notching and boring of the building structure;
- required types and methods of testing and inspection of the plumbing system.

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

All piping passing under or, through walls shall be:

- A. protected from breakage
- B. bent 90° degrees
- C. welded joints
- D. accessible

Chapter on Plumbing Fixtures

The chapter in the codes on plumbing fixtures addresses the approved types and sizes of fixtures, faucets and fixture fittings and their installation. Some of the subjects covered in this chapter are:

- water closets, bidets, lavatories, bathtubs, showers, sinks, automatic clothes washers, dish washers, food grinders;
- fixture fittings and accessories, such as p-traps, tailpieces, slip joint connections, flush valves and overflows in water closet tanks.

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

Water closets or bidets shall not be set closer than ____ from its center to any sidewall or partition.

- A. 10 inches
- B. 12 inches
- C. 15 inches
- D. 18 inches

Chapter on Water Heaters

The chapter on water heaters addresses the installation of water heaters, including the required connections, valves and safety devices. The chapter in the codes on fuel gas, also addresses many requirements for water heater installation and venting. Some of the subjects addressed in the chapter on Water Heaters are:

- approved locations of water heaters
- supply valves
- pressure and temperature relief valves and drains
- drain pans

During the examination, the applicant will view several water heater installations. Each water heater installation will be numbered. Each water heater will have the manufacturer's warning and statistical labels affixed to the water heater. Each water heater installation will contain some code violations, which must be identified by the applicant.

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

The water supply piping to water heater #2:

- A. must have a shutoff valve on both sides where the flex connectors join the pipe.
- B. must have a shutoff valve on the cold water supply.
- C. must have a shutoff valve on the hot water side only.
- D. would be code approved as installed.

Chapter on Water Supply and Distribution

The chapter on water supply and distribution addresses materials and installation of hot and cold water supply and distribution systems. Some of the subjects covered in this chapter are:

- cross-connection contamination prevention, including vacuum breakers and air gaps;
- approved materials for water supply piping
- required methods for installation of water piping, including threaded, solvent cement and solder joints

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

Type "M" copper tubing wall thickness is:

- A. heavier than type "L"
- B. heavier than type "K"
- C. lighter than type "L"
- D. lighter than type "DWV"

Chapter on Sanitary Drainage

The chapter on sanitary drainage addresses the materials and installation of sanitary drainage piping systems. Some of the subjects covered in this chapter are:

- approved and prohibited materials for sanitary drain piping;
- required methods for installation of drainage piping, including solvent cement joints;
- required distance between building drain and water service
- required locations of cleanouts
- testing of sanitary drainage piping

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

Which one of these fixtures has the highest fixture unit rating?

- A. bathtub
- B. water closet
- C. lavatory
- D. kitchen sink

Chapter on Vents

The chapter on vents addresses the materials and installation of vent systems, which allow the sanitary drainage system to operate properly. Some of the subjects covered in this chapter are:

- the purpose of properly installed vent systems
- the different vent types and components which create a complete vent system
- vent terminals
- grading of vents
- connection of vent piping to sanitary drainage piping
- wet venting on the same floor versus wet venting one floor above another A Sample

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

The connection between a vent pipe and a vent stack or stack vent shall be at least __ inches above the flood-level rim of the highest fixture served by the vent:

- A. 4
- B. 8
- C. 7
- D. 6

Chapter on Traps

The chapter on traps addresses the materials and installation of traps in the sanitary drainage system. Some of the subjects covered in this chapter are:

- design of different types of traps
- fixture traps
- protection of trap seals
- prohibited traps

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

Which one of the following characteristics is not a requirement of a properly installed trap?

- A. it is able to pass water freely
- B. it has mechanical or moving parts
- C. it is self-cleaning
- D. it has a seal not less than 2 inches and not more than 4 inches

Chapter on Fuel Gas or Fuel Piping

The chapter on fuel gas or fuel piping addresses the pipes, valves, fittings and installation of those materials used for supplying fuel gas to water heaters and appliances. The subjects covered in this chapter that the Plumber's Apprentice should be knowledgeable of are:

- the different types of fuel gasses
- approved and prohibited materials for fuel gas piping
- testing of fuel gas systems

The applicant should also know, that in order to install liquefied petroleum (L.P.) gas, a separate license issued by the Texas Railroad Commission must first be obtained by anyone who installs L.P. gas piping.

A Sample Question from the Journeyman Plumber Examination:

When supplying fuel gas to more than one building on any one premises, the system shall be equipped with:

- A. one globe valve at the meter.
- B. one shutoff valve outside each building.
- C. one pressure relief valve at each building.
- D. one fuel gas shutoff valve inside each building.

General Information

Candidates may test at any of our US test centers.

Test Center Locations

LOCATION	ADDRESS	SCHEDULE
Abilene area	3444 N 1st St, Ste. 102, Abilene TX 79603	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Amarillo area	1616 S Kentucky, Ste. C305, Amarillo, TX 79102	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Austin area (3 sites)	5100 W US 290 Hwy Service Road Ste. 320 Building 2, Austin, TX 78735	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	505 East Huntland Drive, 3rd Floor, Ste. 330 Centennial Towers Austin, TX 78752	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	12345 North Lamar Boulevard, Ste. 270, Austin, TX 78753	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Bellaire	6800 West Loop S, Prosperity Bank Bldg, Ste. 405, Bellaire, TX 77401	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Bryan	3121 University Drive E, Ste. 225, Bryan, TX 77802	2-3 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Corpus Christi area	5350 South Staples St, Ste. 327, Corpus Christi TX 78411	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Dallas area	12801 North Central Expressway, Ste. 820, Dallas, TX 75243	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	5801 Marvin D Love Freeway, Ste. 200, Dallas, TX 75237	2-3 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	2201 East Lamar Boulevard, Ste. 125, Arbors at Brookhollow, Arlington, TX 76006	2-3 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	4100 Midway Road Ste. 1000, International Business Park Carrollton, TX 75007	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
El Paso area	1155 Westmoreland Dr, Ste. 135, El Paso, TX 79925	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Harlingen area	222 East Van Buren, Ste. 610, Bank of America Bldg, Harlingen, TX 78550	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Houston area (5 sites)	14425 Torrey Chase Blvd., Ste. 240, Houston, TX 77014	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	8876 Gulf Freeway, 8876 Gulf Freeway Bldg., Ste. 220 Houston, TX 77017	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	10740 North Gessner Road Ste. 450, Houston, TX 77064	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	1333 West Loop South, Ste. 1475, Houston, TX 77027	2-3 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	2424 Wilcrest, Ste. 104, Houston, TX 77042	5-6 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Hurst	500 Grapevine Hwy. Ste. 401, Hurst, TX 76054-2707	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Lubbock area	2574 74th Street, Ste. 201, Lubbock, TX 79423	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
McAllen	1100 East Jasmine Ave, Ste. 106, McAllen, TX 78501	2-3 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Midland area	3300 North A Street, Bldg. 4, Ste. 228, Midland, TX 79705-5457	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
San Antonio area (3 sites)	6100 Bandera Road, Stonewater Tower West, Ste. 407 San Antonio, TX 78238	3-4 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	10000 San Pedro Ave, Ste. 175, San Antonio, TX 78216	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
	3619 Paesanos Parkway, Ste. 301, Shavano Center III, Shavano Park, TX 78231	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Sugar Land	2245 Texas Drive, Ste. 190, Sugar Land Towne Center Sugar Land, Texas 77478	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Tyler area	110 N College Ave, Ste. 1001, Tyler, TX 75702	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day
Waco area	1105 Wooded Acres Dr, Wells Fargo Bank Bldg., Ste. 560 Waco, TX 76710	1-2 days per week, average 8 hours per day

Locations and schedules are subject to change.

For more test centers in Texas, please visit <https://home.pearsonvue.com/tsbpe>.

Pearson VUE Holiday Schedule

Testing may be unavailable on U.S. federal holidays and, in some cases, holiday weekends.