

Price Brothers, Inc.

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Valued Customers,

Topic: **Cleanouts in concrete driveway or sidewalk**

We met with officials from the NC Department of Insurance (NCDI) and the NC State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors (Licensing) regarding the insert-type fittings commonly used as sewer tap cleanout access points across the nation. Per the NC interpretation of the ICC Plumbing Code, it is not permissible to use any type of insert fitting as a cleanout access point under any circumstance. They further clarified that PVC pipe and fittings of any kind are not considered traffic-rated materials and cannot be stubbed up in a concrete driveway or sidewalk areas without a NC approved (traffic-rated) access box with cover around the PVC riser pipe. This is not a Price Brothers' decision, but a very firm decree given directly by the governing bodies over the entire State, and one that has overriding jurisdiction over all inspection departments and licensed plumbers doing business within North Carolina.

Again, this is not a Price Brothers' protocol or change, but a situation where the State can suspend or revoke our Master Plumbing License. As such, we will not be able to use such fittings until the governing officials over the State of NC allows such, regardless of when the concrete may have been poured at an active jobsite. Local inspectors no longer have the authority to allow such installations either (*Ratified House Bill 255, Part III, Section 3(a) GS 143-151.8 amendment (c), items 1-6*).

Please have your Field Management Teams within NC communities inspect all active jobsites to determine if any of your developer installed cleanouts are located in a concrete area. If so, then steps must be taken in order for these sewer tap cleanouts to pass inspection. Here are some suggestions for the interim:

Concrete NOT yet Poured:

If the developer-located cleanout is in the concrete area (but not yet poured), consider these suggestions:

1. Have the concrete supplier or subcontractor supply and install a traffic-rated concrete meter box or mini-manhole with cover so that a NC-approved fitting can be installed on the sewer tap cleanout
2. Have your developer move their sewer tap location to a point outside of the driveway or sidewalk area so that it will not create a conflict with the concrete pour

Concrete ALREADY Poured:

If the developer-located cleanout is in a poured concrete driveway or sidewalk, then consider these suggestions:

1. Have the concrete supplier or subcontractor cut a hole around the pipe and install a traffic-rated concrete meter box OR mini-manhole with cover so that a NC-approved fitting can be installed

Please inform all field personnel and your concrete subcontractors to implement the necessary changes with regards to any such concrete-located cleanouts for active jobs to prevent closing delays or scheduling issues.

Thank you for your business and awareness to these NC Officials' code interpretation issues.

Sincerely,
Price Brothers, Inc.