

STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 08-04

CODE: 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code

SECTION: 608.7, Vacuum Relief Valves

QUESTIONS: Does this code section pertain to residential Hot Water Heaters? And if

so does it indicate the whole tank above the fixture outlet or any part

of the tank?

ANSWERS: Yes, this section does pertain to residential water heaters. This

would apply to any fixtures located below the feed line of the water

heater.

These valves allow air to enter the system to prevent internal vacuum conditions that could drain a system by siphonage, burn out heaters or collapse storage tanks. A top-feed water heater is typically provided with a cold water dip tube with a hole at the top that functions as a vacuum relief. Or, alternatively, it may have a vacuum relief valve installed in the cold water supply line above the top of the tank. A bottom-feed water heater does not provide this protection and must be supplied with a vacuum relief valve.

SUPERSEDES: None

REQUESTED BY: Skagit County