

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
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**Rough Plumbing and Shower Pan Installation**

**Code:** 2018 Residential Code

**Date:** April 22, 2019

**Sections:** P2503.6, P2503.2, P2503.5.1

**Question:**

We typically install a shower pan liner to pass plumbing inspection and then rip it out for the shower installation and tiling. Can the shower pan liner testing and inspection be done after the required rough-in and framing inspections?

**Answer:**

Yes. The contractor can request a separate rough-in plumbing inspection to perform the shower pan liner water test and inspection be done when they are ready to install the shower. The rough-in plumbing inspection would still be performed on all the plumbing work except for the shower pan liner. Inspectors should make notes on the inspection report that a follow up inspection for the shower pan liner is required **before** installation of the tilework. This will allow the contractor to conceal the portion of the plumbing system that has passed inspection and eliminates duplication of effort and materials for installation of two shower pan liners when only one is required.

**P2503.2 Concealment.** A plumbing or drainage system, or part thereof, shall not be covered, concealed or put into use until it has been tested, inspected and *approved* by the *building official*.

**P2503.5.1 Rough plumbing.**

**1. Water test.** A water test shall be applied to the drainage system within the building either in its entirety or in sections.....

**Exception:** Rough plumbing testing for one- and two-family dwellings shall be as specified above except the water level shall be a minimum of 3 feet (914 mm) above the highest drainage fitting.....

**P2503.6 Shower liner or pan test.** Where shower floors and receptors are made water tight by the application of materials required by Section P2709.2, the completed liner installation shall be tested. The pipe from the shower drain shall be plugged water tight for the test. The floor and receptor area shall be filled with water to a depth of not less than 2 inches (51 mm) measured at the threshold. Where a threshold of not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in height does not exist, a temporary threshold shall be constructed to retain the test water in the lined floor or receptor area to a level not less than 2 inches (51 mm) in depth measured at the threshold. The water shall be retained for a test period of not less than 15 minutes and there shall not be evidence of leakage.

**Keywords:**