

Points noted by the MPSB Working Group concerning the 2015 UPC/UMC versus 2015 IPC/IMC

- (Chapter 3) IPC silent on utility locations, private utilities crossing lot lines, separate utilities for separate buildings and the availability and requirement to connect to utilities when available. The UPC is specific to these issues.
- (Chapter 4) Both Plumbing Codes would require local amendments related to fixture standard efficiency, the UPC has already been modified in previous ordinances to reflect this.
- (Chapter 6) The UPC would require less ordinance language to adopt versus the IPC
- (Chapter 7) There are multiple charts needed to size drainage systems in the IPC versus one chart in the UPC (UPC more user friendly).
- (Chapter 9) Venting of sanitary piping systems is less restrictive in the IPC, including the use of mechanical air-admittance devices that upon failure can leak sewer gas into homes and businesses causing a health hazard. Also the IPC is less stringent upon when a combination waste and vent system can be utilized, the UPC only approves these for clear water waste installations (for example under the IPC these systems could be used on grease fixtures).
- (Chapter 13 IPC/Chapter 15 UPC) UPC has more published language addressing alternate water use, IPC does not have much language pertaining to it. Language has been drafted from UPC for last 2 code cycles specifically addressing alternate water use.
- The 2015 UMC has been updated where it is more in line with the Building Code. Previous UMC editions had conflicting language with the adopted Building Code.
- UPC and UMC are more prescriptive than the IPC/IMC, the UPC covers plumbing installation in one book versus multiple books needed under I-Codes for plumbing installations, I-Codes refer to manufacturer's instructions versus a prescriptive method found in UPC/UMC, I-Codes often defer to other I-Codes.
- There is concern that there is more variance for interpretation under the IPC/IMC compared to the UPC/UMC.
- A change from the UPC/UMC would be a significant impact to Austin area contractors, suppliers and City staff. The UPC/UMC codes have been used in Austin since 1974.
- More local amendments are predicted to be required under the IPC/IMC due to non-prescriptive language.