



## In Memoriam: Raymond Cardoza



*Raymond Cardoza, 1966 – 2023*

The Plumbing Foundation was sad to hear of former board member Raymond Cardoza's untimely passing this August and remembers him fondly. He was only 56 years old.

Raymond was both a loving family man and dedicated to his business, Cardoza Plumbing, that he shared with his sister, Marie Cardoza. He was a 2nd generation New York City Licensed Master Plumber, following in the footsteps of his late father, Eugene Cardoza. Raymond was a beloved father to his children, Christina, Raymond Jr., Michael, and son-in-law, Michael. In addition to his sister Marie, he was survived by his mother Louise Bello and siblings Stephen and EJ Cardoza.

Raymond has been described as a trusted and loyal friend, as a generous and strong individual who, despite health related obstacles, worked hard both professionally and as a father. He enjoyed planning exciting excursions for him and his family. He was an avid NYC sports fan, especially when it came to the Yankees and Rangers.

Raymond served as a dedicated board member to both the Plumbing Foundation and Association of Contracting Plumbers (ACP), including as former President of the ACP. He was a skilled plumber and his experience and knowledge in the field served our associations enormously. The name Cardoza is paramount in the institutional plumbing world—particularly in the medical and hospital universe. He will always be remembered as a vital member of the plumbing industry.

## Climate Change Policies' Pipe Dreams

*By Terence O'Brien, Executive Vice President, Association of Contracting Plumbers of NYC and Senior Director, Plumbing Foundation*

In light of Climate Week NYC, which occurred September 17-22, I would be remiss if I did not address a topic that has universal impact and is important to so many of us: combating climate change, which the Plumbing Industry and especially those in the New York City market have been on the forefront of combating for decades. From advocating for more efficient, greener products and lower flow water fixture standards, to stopping use of oil for domestic heating and hot water, we will continue to fight for the industry and for the safety and greening of New York City's infrastructure and building codes. With that said, I have several concerns about policy decisions as outlined below.

### **Ambitious But Impractical Gas Ban**

On many occasions, governments (city, state, and federal) are reactionary and/or are overly ambitious when dealing with major events and matters of importance, and climate change is one of those topics. As everyone attempts to navigate a better path forward, unfortunately, there are at times laws and regulations, while having the appearance of being a benefit to the greater good, that may actually



do very little. Local Law 154 of 2021 is a prime example, which essentially bans the use of all fuels, even green/blue hydrogen and biofuels, in newly constructed buildings under 7-stories effective January 1, 2024 and buildings 7-stories and above beginning July 1, 2027. Transforming all newly constructed buildings into electric-only has significant economic, logistical, and energy-security concerns, on which the Foundation has voiced its opinion publicly many times and through testimony during hearings at the City and State levels of government. There are other ways to “green” buildings, which may be more realistic, executable within more reasonable timelines, and which have benchmarks that would be obtainable, but these options are pushed to the wayside—and for what? May it be because certain people wish to say they are the first City or State to have a law enacted? These all or nothing “homerun” approaches are flashy but not as impactful. Policies and laws should not be made in bubbles or involving only a certain demographic. Local Law 154 as well as Local Law 97 of 2019 are fraught with problems and limitations against the intentions.

Within the Climate Change and gas banning conversations, there has been a tremendous amount of buzz about use of alternate technologies including heat pumps, solar energy, and thermal energy. All of this interest is great, but the use of some of these technologies is wildly unregulated and not practical for every environment—in particular, thermal energy. There is almost nothing in the NYC Construction Code on how to install thermal technology or who can install these systems, and thus, it presents issues on safety and accountability. To overcome this, thermal energy systems should require permits, and be installed and maintained by NYC licensed professionals who have familiarity with piping systems to ensure these “better” solutions benefit both working New Yorkers and the environment by “greening” more efficiently.

Let me be frank, the Plumbing Industry, and the stance of the Foundation are transparent on our climate change positions. We want to remain involved and be heard on how we make NYC buildings more efficient and less reliant on fossil fuels. Local Law 154 is going to adversely impact the workers and owners of New York City Plumbing firms. To counter the impact, the City should define the piping and system installation of thermal energy projects as plumbing work for both the good of the plumber and the safety of New Yorkers. Also, the City should reconsider the bans on alternate fuel sources like hydrogen and biofuels caused by Local Law 154. The City should be working to strengthen the work of the licensed master plumber by defining thermal energy piping and allowing hydrogen fuel sources for domestic usage!



The Industrial & Environmental Hygiene (IEH) Division of the NYC School Construction Authority (SCA) has updated its Design Standards for Potable Water System Disinfection and Testing. A contractor performing such work must be an NYC Licensed Master Plumber (LMP) or working under an NYC LMP. The individual developing and signing the Disinfection and Water Quality Testing Plan (DWQTP) must hold a Grade C certification per NYS Sanitary Code Title 10, Sec. 5-4.2. For the disinfection field work, the individual must either hold the Grade C certification or work under the supervision of a Grade C certified water treatment operator. If not holding the full certification, the individual being supervised must have completed the training and passed the initial training validated exam for Grade C and have 5 years of relevant experience.

**For more information, see section number 15420, SP23-02, available at:**  
**[www.nycsca.org/design/design-standards#Specifications-86](http://www.nycsca.org/design/design-standards#Specifications-86)**

# Stay Ahead of the Curve.

## Carbon Reduction

### NYC Local Law 97 Mandate

- NYC LOCAL LAW 97 ENACTED IN 2019
- EMISSIONS LIMITS BEGIN BY 2024
- 40% REDUCTION BY 2030
- 80% REDUCTION BY 2050

## Water Conservation

### Stormwater Reuse / Sustainable Practice

- DEP MANDATED CONTROLLED RELEASE RATE OF STORMWATER INTO THE CITY MAINS
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# NYC DOB SERVICE UPDATE:

## Local Law 77 of 2023: Post Approval Amendment Fee and License Renewal Applications

Updates have been made in DOB NOW and eFiling to implement provisions of Local Law 77 of 2023. The following updates have been made:

- The fee for filing a Post Approval Amendment (PAA) increased from \$100 to \$130. The increased fee applies to any payment for a PAA in DOB NOW: Build or eFiling on or after July 29, 2023. (See NYC Administrative Code Table 28-112.2.)
- Beginning July 29, 2023, applications for license renewals cannot be submitted in DOB NOW: BIS Options more than 90 days (formerly 60 days) prior to the license expiration. (See NYC Administrative Code § 28-401.12.)



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**THE PLUMBING FOUNDATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

Since its establishment in 1986, the Plumbing Foundation has worked diligently to ensure the plumbing industry has as little a "carbon footprint" on New York City as possible. The plumbing industry has historically utilized environmentally friendly materials such as recycled cast-iron and copper piping/fittings. The Foundation will continue in its role of protecting New York City as well as being an advocate for the environment by strengthening its water/sanitary regulations and thereby reducing wasteful water consumption in the City.

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# Take the WaterSense Challenge



## DETECT AND CHASE DOWN LEAKS



### Did You Know

that easy-to-fix water leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes? In fact, the average household leaks nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry, and could be costing you an extra 10 percent on your water bills.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and crack down on water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads all are easily correctable and can save on your utility bill expenses and water in your community.

So put on your detective hat, lace up your running shoes, and take this 10-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks!

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>



### Start by Gathering Clues

These clues can help you detect leaks before you even start investigating your home.

1

#### Check Your Utility Bill

A place to start is to examine your utility bill for January or February. It's likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons (or 16 CCF) per month. You can also look for spikes—is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month? Learn more about your water bill:

[www.epa.gov/watersense/understanding-your-water-bill](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/understanding-your-water-bill).

2

#### Read Your Water Meter

Find your water meter, which is usually near the curb in front of your home but can be inside your home (e.g., in the basement) in cold climates. Use a screwdriver to remove the lid on your meter, which is heavy and usually marked "water."

Now that you've found the meter, take a reading during a period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same after two hours, you probably have a leak. Here's a tip on how to read a water meter:

[www.smarthomewaterguide.org/how-to-read-your-water-meter](http://www.smarthomewaterguide.org/how-to-read-your-water-meter).

3

#### Take a Toilet Test

Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Make sure to flush afterward to avoid staining, and consider replacing your old toilet flapper if it is torn or worn. Check our Fix a Leak web page for handy videos that show you how to do it.

While you're waiting to see if your toilet has a leak, walk around your house with the checklist on the next page and see if you can chase down any other water wasters.

# Checklist for Chasing Down Leaks

## Here are some of the places leaks may be hiding in your home.

Some leaks require a simple fix—a worn toilet flapper, loose pipe connection, or showerhead with stray spray. But you may want to consult a licensed plumber to stop your running toilet, broken sprinklers, water heater drips, or malfunctioning water supply lines. Take a quick inventory of clues to water waste:

### IN THE BATHROOM

- ☐ Toilets: Listen for running water and conduct the food coloring test described on the first page.
- ☐ Faucets: Listen for drips and turn on the tap to check for water going the wrong direction.
- ☐ Showerheads: Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with tape.
- ☐ In the tub: Turn on the tub, then divert the water to the shower and see if there's still a lot of water coming from the tub spout; that could mean the tub spout diverter needs replacing.
- ☐ Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.

### IN THE KITCHEN

- ☐ Faucet: Listen for drips and tighten aerators or replace fixtures if necessary.
- ☐ Sprayer: Check to make sure water is spraying smoothly and clean openings as needed.
- ☐ Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipes and rust around joints and edges.
- ☐ Appliances: Check for pooling water underneath dishwashers and refrigerators with ice makers, which could indicate a supply line leak.

### IN THE LAUNDRY OR UTILITY ROOM

- ☐ Under the sink: Check for pooling water under pipe connections.
- ☐ Clothes washer: Check for pooling water, which could indicate a supply line leak.

### IN THE BASEMENT OR UTILITY ROOM

- ☐ Water heater: Check beneath the tank for pooling water, rust, or other signs of leakage.

### DON'T FORGET TO GO OUTSIDE

- ☐ At the spigot: Ensure tight connections with the hose and see if the hose washer needs replacing.
- ☐ In-ground irrigation system: Check for broken sprinklers or nozzles spraying in the wrong direction. You may want to consult an irrigation auditor certified by a WaterSense labeled program to improve system efficiency: [www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro).

### FOR THE KIDS



Kids aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, they're the dreamers and doers of today. "Test Your WaterSense" and try other fun activities at Flo's Kids Zone at: [www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids).

### THROUGHOUT THE HOUSE

Check for signs of moisture or mold on your walls, ceilings, or floors. This could indicate that a pipe is wreaking havoc behind the scenes and requires the attention of a professional.

If you want to do a more detailed investigation for leaks, check out the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association Smart Home Water Guide at [www.smarthomewaterguide.org](http://www.smarthomewaterguide.org).

If any of your fixtures needs replacing, remember to look for the WaterSense label when purchasing plumbing products. WaterSense labeled products are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

For more information, visit [www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week).

### MARK AN X FOR LEAKS

