



Newsletter

Western Michigan Chapter

January 2025

WESTERN MICHIGAN

This months meeting info:

Grand Rapids Meeting:

Kalamazoo Meeting:

Dates:

January 8th & 9th

Location:

**Canopy by Hilton - Grand Rapids Downtown
131 Ionia Avenue SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

Location:

**Park Club of Kalamazoo
219 W. South Street
Kalamazoo , MI 49007**

Speaker:

**Brian O'Keefe
Oasis International**

Time:

**11:30 Social
12:00 Presentation & Lunch**

Time:

**11:30 Social
12:00 Presentation & Lunch**

Subject:

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Cost:

\$30 per person





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Chapter President—Brian Peceny

Welcome to 2025. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and are ready for the next quarter of the century. We had a nice December meeting and celebration in Gun Lake. A special thank you to Charlie Watson for presenting on backflow protection or cross connection protection.

We are back to our normal lunch meeting schedules for now through May. We meet in Grand Rapids on Wednesdays and Kalamazoo on Thursdays. In May we will have a lunch meeting as well as our annual ASPE Golf outing on May 19.

If you are a planner, check out ASPE.org to get information on the 2025 ASPE Tech Symposium. It will be in September in Orlando Florida. Expect great learning opportunities in the plumbing and fire protection fields. If learning is your goal, the Symposium is for you.



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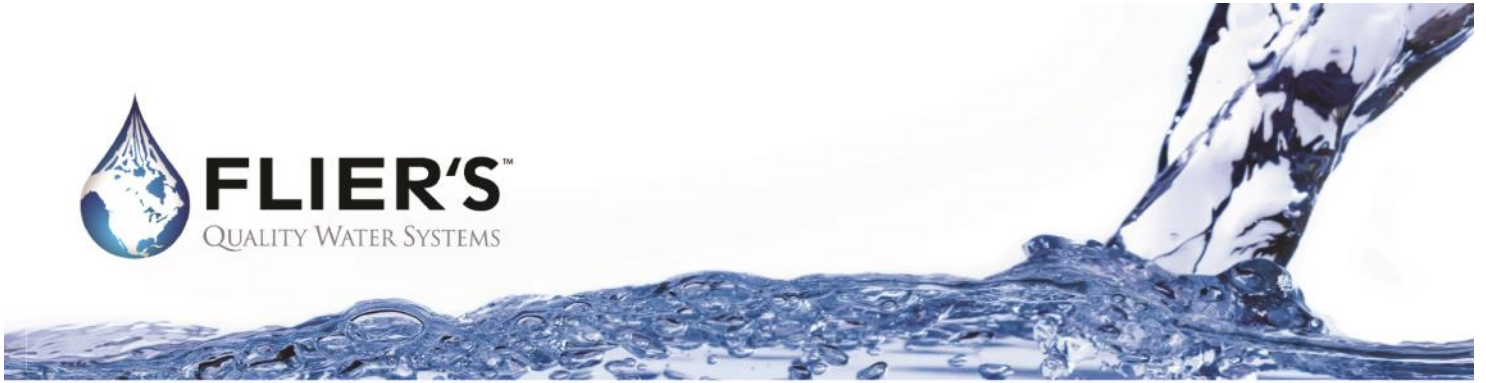
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Tannins aren't dangerous to drink but they can make water unappealing, discouraging people from drinking it therefore leading to dehydration. If your water contains tannins, it likely contains other contaminants, possibly dangerous.

Tannins are a type of water contamination that can affect the taste, smell, and appearance of drinking water. It often causes water to have a yellow or brown tint, a musty or earthy odor, can give water a bitter or tart aftertaste, and normally stains laundry, porcelain, and fixtures.



Tannins in the water (source: springwellwater.com)

Removal Methods

1. Anion exchange (most effective): removes tannins from water.
2. Chlorination & filtration: removes tannins from water.
3. Membrane filtration (least effective): Uses ultrafiltration membranes to separate tannins from water.
4. Reverse osmosis (most costly, not recommended): Uses pressure to force water through a semi-porous membrane that traps tannins.
5. Activated carbon filters (most economical): Can remove tannins from water but inefficient at complete removal.

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VP Technical—Nick Von Myhr

Hello everyone!

The West Michigan ASPE Chapter is excited for another year to educate, grow, and give back to the engineering community. I want to thank our Christmas party host Charlie Watson for the excellent presentation on Cross-connection control. I would encourage everyone to save Charlie's contact information for any future backflow prevention questions.

To kick off the new year, the ASPE team welcomes Brian O'Keefe with Oasis International. Brian will be educating us on drinking fountain and bottle filler solutions. Brian has more than 30 years in the plumbing industry and has a reputation as a sought-after instructor. With the new filter first legislation in Michigan, it's important for us to know as much as we can about drinking fountains and bottle fillers to better educate our clients.

See you all there



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VP Membership—John Cassady

Welcome to 2025! We are currently at 94 members in the West Michigan chapter. Many of you have memberships that are based on the calendar year so please make sure your membership is up to date.

If you know anyone interested in joining our chapter, please have them reach out. All new members will receive a voucher for a free meeting, redeemable at checkout when registering for an event.

For those of you who have a membership expiring by the end of February, you should have received an email reminder from the national society already. I will send out follow-up reminders to you all as well.

When you are renewing your membership, please be sure to select West Michigan as your “home chapter”. Any “at large” members may miss out on communication from the chapter.

You can also update your chapter affiliation by logging in to [ASPE.org](https://www.aspe.org), following My Account > My Profile, and editing your information.

If you have a coworker interested in joining our chapter, please have them contact me with questions about membership.



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VP Legislative —Luciana Kayo

In March 2024 we experienced another update to the Michigan Plumbing Code, introducing new regulations and requirements to plumbing standards across the state.

This article is designed to help plumbing designers and engineers understand the most significant Code updates that are critical to ensuring compliance, enhancing safety, and protecting property.

These updates reflect Michigan's commitment to aligning its codes with evolving industry needs, particularly regarding accessibility, sustainability, and system efficiency. Whether you're designing plumbing systems for commercial buildings or revising residential layouts, the updated code introduces requirements that will significantly impact your work.

To support professionals in navigating these changes, Michigan now mandates specific code update classes for plumbing practitioners. These sessions not only facilitate compliance but also empower participants with the knowledge needed to stay ahead in this rapidly evolving industry.

This month we will cover the first part of the 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code updates:

1. Overview of Mandatory Code Update Classes

The Skilled Trades Regulation Act (PA 407 of 2016) requires licensed master and journey plumbers to attend a 3-hour code update class during each code cycle. These courses must be completed within the first year of a code change to maintain licensure. For the 2021 code cycle, attendance is required by March 2025.

Key requirements include:

- **Master Plumbers:** Must demonstrate successful completion of an approved code update course as a condition for license renewal.
- **Journey Plumbers:** Similarly, they must complete the course within 12 months of a code update to renew their license.

The update classes are designed to provide a comprehensive overview of significant code revisions and their practical applications. These sessions not only fulfill a legal obligation but also ensure professionals are equipped to design and implement systems that meet the latest safety and performance standards.

Continued on page 12...

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VP Legislative —Luciana Kayo (continued)

2. Key Changes in Scope and Definitions

The 2021 Michigan Plumbing Code introduces critical updates to its scope and key definitions, enhancing clarity for plumbing designers and engineers.

- **Revised Scope:** The updated code specifies that detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses no more than three stories high, along with their accessory structures, must comply with the Michigan Residential Code rather than the Plumbing Code. This distinction simplifies planning for residential projects and reduces potential regulatory overlap.
- **New Definitions:** Several terms have been added or clarified, reflecting new industry practices and technologies:
 - **Dual Flushing Device:** Specifies mechanisms for reduced or full-volume flushing, critical for sustainability-focused designs.
 - **Group Wash Fixture:** Defines fixtures designed for multiple simultaneous users, influencing designs for commercial and institutional restrooms.
 - **Push-Fit Fitting:** Introduces a standardized definition for mechanical fittings used in joining pipes.

These updates provide a clearer framework for compliance and ensure uniformity in interpretation.

3. Updates to General Regulations

The updates to Chapter 3 emphasizes documentation, permitting, and inspection protocols, addressing both technological advancements and procedural clarity.

- **Construction Documents:** A key highlight is the inclusion of digital plan submissions as an approved method where allowed by the code official. This change modernizes the process, reducing physical paperwork and enabling seamless collaboration between teams.
- **Permit and Inspection Protocols:** New sections underline the importance of adhering to permitting processes:
 - **Work Commencing Before Permit Issuance:** Initiating work without a permit now incurs additional fees, reinforcing accountability.
 - **Inspection of Plumbing Work:** Post-installation inspections must confirm compliance with all code aspects before approval.

These updates not only establish higher accountability but also align Michigan's regulations with industry trends, promoting efficiency and safety.

Next month we will continue with the second part of the code updates, so stay tuned!

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 Tony DeDionisio
 American Gas Safety
 Gas Safety Design

December 12th (Christmas Party)
 Charlie Watson
 Dave Watson and Associates
 Cross Connection Control

March 13th & 14th
 Taylor
 Xylem Pumps
 Pump Sizing & Pressure Loss
 Calculation

October 9th & 10th
 Tyler Oatmen
 Associated Heating Sales
 Commercial Lift Station Design

January 8th & 9th
 Kenyatta Ribeiro
 Oasis International
 Clean Drinking Water Solutions

April 3rd & 4th
 Nick Turner
 Voidform Systems

November 20th & 21st
 Jonny Pingry
 Guardian Equipment
 Emergency Eyewash & Safety Showers

February 12th & 13th
 Brent
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 Schier Oil Separators

May 7th & 8th
 Dave Harth
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May 19th
 ASPE Annual Golf Outing

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Rockford MI 49341
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www.ahspumps.com



Western Michigan Chapter

Help promote your business and support your local ASPE chapter by advertising in the 2024/2025 Western Michigan ASPE Society Newsletter which reaches local plumbing and mechanical engineers as well as local wholesale members. Choose the advertising level that best suits your needs. This increase in publicity for your company will be an asset for all parties involved.

Business card: \$150

Manufacturer Ads:

1/8 Page \$260

1/4 Page \$475

Full Page \$880

Included with your fee:

(9) issues of the newsletter

(9) inserts of the Business Card Ad in the newsletter

ASPE will once again be allowing you to rotate your advertisement throughout the year! If you wish to change your ad during the 2024/2025 session, email the new ad to me, and it will be changed in the following newsletter.

Advertising space can be purchased on the West Michigan ASPE website:

[Click here to purchase advertising space in the 2024/2025 newsletter](#)

Please send a copy of your ads and/or business cards to Jonathan Burke:

Phone: (616) 217-1399 Email: jmburke@burkeagency.com

Thank you for supporting your local ASPE chapter.