



PLUMBERS LOCAL 130 UA

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February 11, 2025

Tim Bleuher
Cook County Commissioner
of Building and Zoning
69 W. Washington Blvd.
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Plumbers proudly live and work by their motto: "the Plumber Protects the Health of the Nation." Cook County residents expect and deserve to know that they are drinking safe, clean water every time they turn on their faucets. We are also keenly aware that our Great Lakes are precious resources that we dare not take for granted. We must be good stewards of water quality and quantity by engaging in conservation. It is imperative that we modernize our codes to ensure that future generations are also able to enjoy and rely upon the Great Lakes by introducing and encouraging the safe use of greywater and rainwater technologies.

Greywater recapture technology allows water from drinking fountain drains, shower drains and similar fixtures. Rainwater catchment technology captures rainwater from rooftops. These alternative water sources can be used in irrigation, water closets and urinals. A separate piping system is installed by a licensed plumber employed by a licensed bonded, plumbing contractor. This ensures both the safety of the users of the building and of the County's potable water system. International codes such as IAPMO have recognized and regulated this technology for many years, and provide for construction, testing, operation, and maintenance procedures that have been implemented in many states and countries. The technology and construction methods are proven, reliable, and safe.

The benefits of amending the code to permit greywater recapture and rainwater catchment technologies is paramount to sustainability. Less potable water consumption for irrigation, and use in water closets and urinals lowers costs for users and conserves our lake and groundwater sources. Rainwater that is captured for these uses does not run into our storm sewers or increase strain on water treatment plants. And the technology is modeled to residents and businesses who can employ in industrial, commercial, and residential buildings across Cook County. Together we can modernize our code, advance Cook County as a leader in sustainable construction, and preserve our precious natural resources, to ensure a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Please contact me at your convenience with any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

James F. Coyne
James F. Coyne
Business Manager

cc: Jeremy Bergstrom, Cook County State's Attorney's Office
James Majerowicz, Plumbers Local 130 UA

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