

Water services for island benches

Plumbing Advisory Note – April 2020

Requirements exist which are specific to the installation of water services into island benches within Class 1a buildings.

Proximity to other services

AS/NZS 3500.1 Clause 5.2

Separation Distances

A separation of 100 mm must exist between any underground water service and:

- an electrical cable
- a consumer gas pipe
- a communication cable
- and any other service.

Branch Offtakes

- Branch offtakes shall not exceed:
- 6 m for pipes with an internal diameter of 12.5 mm
- 3 m for pipes with an internal diameter of 10 mm

Generally plumbers use PVC-U pipe as the sleeve to enable the hot and cold water pipes to be installed at the sink area.

In such cases, plumbers must ensure that:

- electrical, gas pipes and communication cables are not installed in the same sleeve
- the heated water pipe is insulated with a minimum 13 mm of closed cell polymer R=0.3
- the sleeve length is as short as possible
- where termite protection is required, the integrity of the chosen termite protection method shall not be compromised
- the number of joints under slabs are minimal.

Legislative requirements

The requirements for cold and heated water pipework are detailed in the *National Construction Code Series Volume Three, Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA)*, Parts B1 and B2.

The 'deemed to satisfy' documents are AS/NZS 3500.1 and AS/NZS 3500.4 which contain sections on supporting and fixing above ground water services.



Figure 1 - Acceptable island bench installation using sleeve



Figure 2 - Non-compliant installation (electrical cable in sleeve with water pipes)