

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

What was wrong with the cover photo on the May issue of the Illinois Master Plumber magazine? First, let us explain the story behind this situation. Apparently, a design flaw in a major chain restaurant allowed the waterline serving this water closet to freeze. The solution, drill and tap the supply line to the flush valve, turn it on, problem solved. No more frozen water lines. A plumber and his son, who found the problem, alerted the management about the hazard. They were told that the problem would be corrected that same day. After they returned 3 weeks later, nothing had been done to correct the problem.

Before we get to the plumbing code violations, I think we should weigh our options to get this problem corrected. First off, the local plumbing inspector and the water purveyor should be contacted. Hopefully, with State Plumbing Code and Illinois EPA rules for protection of potable water, these two agencies can get this hazard corrected immediately.

Now to what we find in the code regarding these violations.

## Section 890.1130 Protection of Potable Water

c) Backflow. The water distribution system shall be protected against backflow. Each water outlet shall be protected from backflow by having the outlet end from which the water

flows spaced a distance above the flood-level rim of the receptacle into which the water flows sufficient to provide a minimum fixed air gap. Where it is not possible to provide a minimum fixed air gap, the water outlet shall be equipped with an accessible backflow prevention device or assembly in accordance with subsection (f) or Section 890.1140.

e) Prohibited Connections.

5) No pipe or fitting of the water supply system shall be drilled or tapped nor shall any band or saddle be used except at the water main in the street.

Exception: See Section 890.320(h) for potable water use only.

And my personal favorite;

## Section 890.110 General Regulations

2) Regardless of the age of the building, where a health or safety hazard exists because of an existing plumbing installation or lack thereof, the owner or his agent shall install additional plumbing or make such corrections as may be necessary to abate the hazard or violation of this Part.

Sometimes if we arm ourselves with the right information, use a few words like **Responsibility** and



**Liability**, common sense might just prevail.

This month's winner was Plumbing Inspector Dale Firof of Macomb, Illinois. He will receive an Illinois PHCC logo item and have his name placed in a drawing for a free registration to the 2007 Illinois PHCC Convention.

The Illinois Plumbing Inspectors Association provides photos and interpretations. Please feel free to contact the Illinois PHCC with any questions or comments regarding the contest.