

AIR TESTING OF DWV SYSTEMS

Air testing is required whenever conditions are too wet to detect water leaks

From the California Plumbing Code:

712.3 Air Test. The air test shall be made by attaching an air compressor testing apparatus to any suitable opening, and, after closing all other inlets and outlets to the system, forcing air into the system until there is a uniform gage pressure of five (5) pounds per square inch (34.5 kPa) or sufficient to balance a column of mercury ten (10) inches (254mm) in height. The pressure shall be held without introduction of additional air for a period of at least fifteen (15) minutes.

319.0 Test Gauges. Tests required by this Code, which are performed utilizing dial gauges, shall be limited to gauges having the following pressure graduations or incrementations.

319.1 Required pressure tests of ten (10) psi (69 kPa) or less shall be performed with gauges of 1/10 pound (0.7 kPa) incrementation or less.

319.2 Required pressure tests exceeding ten (10) pounds (69 kPa) but less than one hundred (100) psi (689 kPa) shall be performed with gauges of one (1) psi (6.9 kPa) incrementation or less.

319.3 Required pressure tests exceeding one hundred (100) psi (689 kPa) shall be performed with gauges incremented for two (2) percent or less of the required test pressure.

319.4 Test gauges shall have a pressure range not greater than twice the test pressure applied.

SUMMARY:

- 1) Five PSI air test is required in wet conditions**
- 2) The gauge must read no more than 10 PSI at full scale**
- 3) The gauge must have 1/10 PSI markings**
- 4) You can use a 15 PSI gauge only if you pressurize the system to 7.5 PSI**

If you can't find a complying 10 PSI gauge locally they are available on the internet for about \$30.

- Type www.flw.com/olash2.htm in the address bar (must be all lower case letters)
- Find Model 1490 at the bottom of the page
- Click on the red ORDER button
- Select 0/10 psi in the PRESSURE RANGE drop-down list
- Click on CONTINUE to place the order