2019 California Plumbing Code, Section 105.0 - Permits

104.1: Permits Required. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to make any installation, alteration, repair or replacement or remodel any plumbing system regulated by this code except as permitted in Section 104.2, or to cause the same to be done without first obtaining a separate plumbing permit for each separate building or structure.

104.2: Exempt Work. A plumbing permit shall not be required for the following:
1. The stopping of leaks in drains, soil, waste, or vent pipe, provided, however, that should a trap, drain pipe, soil, waste, or vent pipe become defective and it becomes necessary to remove and replace the same with new material, the same shall be considered as new work and a permit shall be procured and inspection made as provided in this code.
2. The clearing of stoppages, including the removal and reinstallation of water closets, or the repairing of leaks in pipes, valves, or fixtures, provided such repairs do not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves, pipes, or fixtures.

Exemption from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in violation of the provisions of the code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.

COMMON PLUMBING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Permits Required – Permits are required for:
- Any new drain, waste, or vent piping, traps, or valves.
- Any new, relocated, or altered gas lines.
- New or relocated plumbing fixtures such as sinks, toilets, baths, showers, floor drains, clothes washing machines, and water softeners at a location where no fixtures previously existed.
- Any new, replacement, relocated, or altered water heater.
- Any new, replacement, or relocated dishwasher.
- New lawn sprinkler systems, valves and back-flow devices.

Exempt From Permit – Permits are not required for:
- Removal and replacement of plumbing fixtures such as sinks, toilets, tubs, showers, washing machines, and water softeners in the same location, provided such replacement does not involve or require the replacement or rearrangement of valves, pipes, backflow devices or traps.
- Maintenance such as repairing leaks and the clearing of stoppages provided such maintenance does not involve or require the replacement of valves, pipes or traps.