

## **The Importance of As-Constructed Drawings**

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As constructed drawings are often seen as a necessary evil that come along at the end of a job to get a final certificate. It could be argued that when plumbers create as-constructed drawings, they are not just documenting the work completed; they are leaving behind a legacy. These drawings become an enduring testament to their expertise and craftsmanship, showcasing their name and professional contribution. As-constructed drawings can embody the plumber's dedication to quality, providing a tangible and visible representation of their work.

Accurate as-constructed drawings serve as an invaluable resource for future reference and maintenance. Over time, systems may require repairs, renovations, or expansions. Having detailed records of the plumbing infrastructure can save time and effort by giving those that come along after location of pipes and connections as well as an overall view of each system installed. Good drawings can facilitate faster repairs, reduce disruption, and minimize downtime.

Producing as-constructed drawings can present challenges, particularly in terms of scope and cost. Since the extent and complexity of as-constructed drawings are often unknown until the project's completion, it is important to establish clearly in contractual agreements with clients regarding the production and delivery of the final drawings.

Plumbers sometimes face the challenge of working with very basic or incomplete design drawings that have to be altered so that the installation will work and/or be compliant. In such cases, if the consultant is no longer engaged they may have to rely on their own expertise and experience to fill in the gaps. Whilst this can be inconvenient and demanding, it can be an opportunity to showcase their problem-solving skills and adaptability. Accurate records of changes should be clearly marked up usually without using liquid paper so that changes can be identified against the original design. These are typically signed off by plumbing inspectors with the original mark ups cross checked against the drawings as part of a final inspection. It should be noted that plumbers take responsibility of the installation and any design changes with as-constructed drawings.

In conclusion, as-constructed drawings in plumbing projects serve as a lasting legacy and a valuable resource for future maintenance and reference. By emphasizing the importance of keeping accurate records and managing the creation of as-constructed drawings effectively, plumbing professionals can ensure their work is valued and their expertise recognized. Despite the challenges that may arise, the investment in creating comprehensive as-constructed drawings pays off in terms of improved efficiency, reduced costs, and enhanced client satisfaction. Future generations will thank you.