

Question of the Month

Is the electrical equipment associated with a hydromassage bathtub permitted to be accessible only from the crawlspace beneath the tub? *See correct answer on Page 2.*

Electrical Inspector Positions Available

Do you enjoy a challenge? Have you ever thought about becoming an Electrical Inspector for L&I? Do you have 4 years' experience as a Washington EL01 certified electrician? The time may be right if you enjoy serving customers and interacting with electrical contractors, electricians, and the public. If you want to help ensure electrical safety in Washington and help licensed electrical contractors and certified electricians by enforcing laws related to the underground economy, this could be just what you are looking for. It is a great job with a great benefit package. Inspectors have a challenging workload inspecting a wide variety of interesting and complex electrical installations.

You can get more information and apply for these positions by visiting the [Find a Job at L&I](#) page of our website. Clear the search box, type "electrical inspector", and hit enter. You may see several postings. Some are for specific locations, or you can choose one for "multiple opportunities available". Read the posting and click "Apply". You will need to create a user name and password to access the electronic application system. Get your resume together, as openings will be posted for upcoming positions. Check with your local inspector or supervisor for information about upcoming openings.

Public Hearing – WAC 296-46B Revisions

L&I held a public hearing on the proposed changes to the electrical rules in [WAC 296-46B](#) on June 5 in Tumwater. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comment on the proposed changes. One person gave public testimony. The comments were in support of the changes. You can review the proposed rules and other rulemaking documents by visiting the [Rule Development](#) page of our website. The proposed rules are scheduled to be effective August 23.

If you have any questions, please contact Alicia Curry, at 360-902-6244 or Alicia.Curry@lni.wa.gov.

Electrical Board Meeting July 25 in Tumwater

The electrical board meets four times per year on the last Thursday of January, April, July, and October. The meetings are open to the public and meeting times and locations as well as minutes of previous meetings are posted on the [Electrical Board](#) page of our website. This month's meeting will be held July 25 at 9 a.m. at the [Tumwater L&I building](#) auditorium, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater.

Correction Reduction Initiative

At the beginning of each fiscal year (in July), the department identifies contractors who received more than twice the average number of corrections for contractors with at least 24 inspections in the previous year. Then, each month these contractors receive a list of all their corrections from the previous month. This gives them an opportunity to review the items with their electricians to improve the quality of their work.

This initiative has proven to be very successful in helping contractors reduce corrections and save money for themselves and the department. During fiscal year 2019, (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019), the contractors in the correction

Safety Tip of the Month

- Keep power cords clear of tools during use.
- Suspend power cords over aisles and work areas to eliminate stumbling, tripping hazards or damage to cords.
- Do not carry electrical tools by the power cord.
- Do not tie power cords in tight knots. Knots can cause short circuits and shocks.

reduction initiative reduced their corrections by an average of 25 percent from the previous year. The result is safer electrical installations at a significant cost savings to the contractor, customers, and the department. Corrections cost everyone by causing return visits to the jobsite. Our studies have shown that 20 percent of contractors receive 80 percent of corrections.

We use this initiative to improve our own performance as inspectors as well. Contractors who believe they have received improper corrections should contact the electrical inspection field supervisor for the issuing office to discuss possible invalid corrections, such as those that are not within the scope of the contractor's work, or those that are not supported by a correct code reference. A contractor should never accept invalid corrections because they fear reprisal from an inspector or supervisor. Our inspectors are required to provide an accurate reference (NEC, WAC) for all corrections issued. Improper corrections will be removed from the contractor's record.

Top Ten Electrical Installation Code Corrections Issued to Electrical Contractors

Corrections issued to licensed electrical contractors are very costly. Below are the top ten installation code corrections issued to electrical contractors last year.

- 1) NEC 110.3(B) Listed and labeled electrical equipment not installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions included in the listing and labeling.
- 2) NEC 210.8(A) and (B) Ground-fault circuit-interrupter protection requirements.
- 3) NEC 408.4(A) and 110.22(A) Failing to ensure accurate labeling of the panel schedule, circuit directory, or disconnecting means.
- 4) NEC 210.12(A) and (D) Arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection requirements for dwellings.
- 5) NEC 250.104(B) Bonding of metal piping systems including gas piping.
- 6) NEC 250.94 Intersystem bonding termination required for communications systems bonding.
- 7) NEC 110.7 Wiring integrity – completed wiring installations shall be free from short circuits, ground-faults, or any unpermitted connections to ground.
- 8) NEC 110.24(A) Service equipment at other than dwelling units to be marked in the field with the maximum available fault current.
- 9) NEC 250.24(A) System grounding connection requirements for services.
- 10) NEC 314.25 Each box shall have a cover, faceplate, lampholder, or luminaire canopy.

Contractors – Be Sure Customers Know Inspections Need to Happen

We are finding customers are not aware that electrical work requires inspections. Too often, we hear customers who claim, "My electrical contractor never told me I needed an inspection". Some are reluctant to allow access to an inspector. Inform your customers an inspection is required and what to expect. Better communication improves response time and reduces delays. Inspections are about safety and everybody needs to work together to get them done. Ultimately, it is the contractor's responsibility to make sure inspectors get access and have clear directions about what needs inspection.

Ugly Picture of the Month: *If viewing this document online, click on the picture to open a larger image.*

This house was wired in 1998. Two nonmetallic-sheathed cables and a siding nail were occupying the same hole. It became an issue 20 years later when smoke started coming into the garage. [WAC 296-46B-010\(6\)](#) was adopted to help prevent this from happening in the future.

Answer to Question of the Month: No. [WAC 296-46B-680\(12\)](#) – For hydromassage bathtubs, all electrical equipment installed to support the bathtub (e.g., disconnecting means, motor, etc.) must be accessible at the same grade level as the tub or from a landing on the exterior of the building without the use of a ladder or other access device.



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Electrical Section Internet Address: <http://www.ElectricalProgram.Lni.wa.gov/>

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