

**San Francisco Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Section  
1390 Market Street, Suite 210  
San Francisco, CA 94102**



## **MESSAGE PROGRAM**

**Structural Requirements for New  
Construction and Major Remodeling  
of Massage Establishments**

**STRUCTURAL AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS  
FOR MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS  
Article 29 of the San Francisco Health Code**

**Sections. 1910 & 1911**

**Construction Requirements:**

1. Construction of rooms used for toilets, tubs, steam baths, and showers shall be installed in accordance with the San Francisco Building Code. Plumbing fixtures shall be installed in accordance with the San Francisco Plumbing Code.
  - For toilet rooms, toilet room vestibules, and rooms containing bathtubs, there shall be a waterproof floor covering, which will be carried up all walls to a height of at least five inches. Floors shall be coved at the juncture of the floor and wall with a 3/8 inch minimum radius coving. Walls and ceilings of those rooms shall be constructed from hard, durable and nonabsorbent materials which are easily cleaned. Steam rooms and shower compartments shall have waterproof floors, walls, and ceilings approved by the Director.
  - Toilet facilities shall be provided for employees and patrons.
  - Floors of wet and dry heat rooms shall be adequately pitched to one or more floor drains.
  - A source of hot water must be available within the vicinity of dry and wet heat rooms to facilitate cleaning.
2. Toilet facilities shall be provided in convenient locations. The number of toilets shall comply with the San Francisco Building Code. Doors to toilet rooms shall open inward and be self-closing. Toilet rooms shall be designated as to the gender accommodated therein. Solo Practitioner Massage Establishment toilet rooms may not be equipped with self-closing devices.
3. Lavatories or hand wash basins with both hot and cold running water shall be installed in either the toilet room or the vestibule. Lavatories or hand wash basins must have soap in a dispenser and sanitary towels.
4. All portions of the massage establishment shall be provided with adequate light and ventilation by means of windows or skylights with an area of not less than 1/8 of the total floor area, or shall be provided with an approved artificial light and a mechanical operating ventilating system. When window for skylights are used for ventilation, at least 1/2 of the total required window area shall be operable. To allow for adequate ventilation, cubicles, rooms, and areas provided for the use of patrons not served directly by a window, skylight, or mechanical system of ventilation shall be constructed so that the height of the partitions does not exceed

75 percent of the floor-to-ceiling height of the area in which they are located. The above requirement shall comply with all stipulations in the San Francisco Building Code.

5. Change Room. A room, enclosure, or designated area , which is separate from the toilet, massage room, or other common areas shared by the patrons, shall be provided where employees may change and store clothes. Doors to dressing rooms shall open inward and with self closing device.
6. Toilet and dressing rooms and massage rooms, shall be provided with at least 108 lux (10 foot-candles) of light.
7. Smooth and cleanable containers shall be provided for soiled linens.
8. Adequate and suitable space shall be provided for storage of clean linens, including towels, apparels, etc.
9. All electrical equipment shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the San Francisco Electrical Code.

### **Plan Submittal**

The Health Department is part of the Building Permit Process. **For New Construction and Major Remodeling**, floor plans and specifications must be filed with the appropriate Departments.

- 1) Department of Building Inspection (DBI)  
Central Permit Bureau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
1660 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415)-558-6096
- 2) Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Ste 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 558-6378
- 3) DBI -Plumbing Inspection  
1660 Mission Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 558-6054
- 4) DBI – Electrical Inspection  
1660 Mission Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 558-6506

- 5) Fire Department  
698 Second Street, Room 109  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
(415) 558-3300

**Plan Check Fee.**

On August 1, 1991, the Health Department initiated a fee program for plan review, pursuant to Municipal Code II, Section 35. The program is as follows:

All applicants submitting plans for new and major remodeling shall deposit \$920 in the form of money order or check made payable to the San Francisco Health Department.

All time spent checking the plans, consulting with you on the phone or site inspections and other cost shall be deducted from the deposit at an hourly rate. Current rate is \$140 per hour.

Check or money order must be deposited at the Environmental Health Section Office at 1390 Market Street, Suite 210, San Francisco, CA 94102. When the construction is completed and permit is issued, the remainder of the deposit will be refunded to the applicant.

If you have any questions you should contact your District Inspector in charge of the District within which your establishment is located by calling 415-252-3800.