



Water Quality Association *of Wisconsin*

Hello JPRA Learners,

I would like to introduce myself to all of you and provide you all with a little bit of information about myself, and my approach to providing training on the State of Wisconsin Journeyman Plumber restricted Appliance test being offered by the WQAW.

I began my career in the water treatment industry in 1993 after a career in Hotel sales and management. At that time I knew absolutely nothing about water treatment, plumbing, or the Water Quality Association. Like many of you, this was all very foreign to me. I joined my wife's family water treatment business that at the time was in their 39th year of business. I started at the bottom and delivered salt and water, all while signing up for taking the JPRA exam through the same program that is offered today. The only difference was that we had actual classroom teachers 2 nights a week, and a state inspector teaching the course. Today the state does not teach our course, and so we rely on mentors in the industry to help out and take it on. That's how you got me.

I hold a Master Plumber Restricted Appliance License, WQA - CWS- Certified Water Specialist, and a WQA- CI - Certified Installer certifications. I served as the National WQA President in 2010, I wrote the WQA Commercial Plumbing Sizing, Design, and Application book used in commercial water treatment courses, and received the Lifetime Achievement, and Award of Merit honors.

I sold Abendroth Water Conditioning to Total Water of Madison Wisconsin after a 31 year run of operating the family business and growing the business over 3 times the size it was in 1993. During this time I had the opportunity to train and work with 14 different team members who all went on to pass the JPRA and MPRA exams. My latest two students got their licenses right before I sold the business in 2023. I continue to work for Total Water and help teach for WQA.

There is a very famous saying that I will share with all of you. " The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice."

Just because I have achieved certain goals, passed certain exams, or have been selected to lead this course, certainly does not mean I have all the answers, or that I can be good enough to teach you to pass this exam. It does mean that together we can establish a lesson that will guide you to where all the correct answers can be found. I don't have all the answers, only the code has them. We are not expected to rehearse the code book, just how to use it to find the right answers. This is why it is an open book exam!

From what I have seen and learned about this exam, there is a great need to understand the layout of the code book, how to read the code book, what applies to the JPRA, and what we can leave alone. But the biggest need of all is " Hands-on experience" in your workplace

being led by a mentor who has the proper credentials to mentor a student. Too many times I am seeing students being taught the "Company way" or the "Fastest way" which is usually the wrong way. Due to labor issues, installers and techs are being thrown to the wolves and having to fend for themselves and try to figure things out with nowhere to get the answers. Remember that if you are out plumbing or installing without a Journeyman Plumber or Master Plumber with you, you are plumbing illegally and can be removed from the program, and the Master Plumber who signed for you can have their license removed.

So, during your time in this program of 6 - 7 weeks, work directly with a JPRA or a MPRA, be a sponge, ask questions, ask if it is code?

Here is what I would like you all to have for the start of this program.

- All current education material to take the JPRA exam. The code did change in October 2023. They can be found at <https://docsales.wi.gov/> (Don't forget the water treatment handbook)
- A 3-ring binder 3" in size
- Colored or writeable divider tabs for the 3 ring binder
- 3 Highlighters. Pink, Yellow, and Blue
- Calculator
- Clear Ruler you can read through. The kind with the clear tube bubble on top works great.
- Any previous report card from a prior exam. Let's focus on where you need the help most

First meeting:

Total Water Treatment Headquarters
5002 World Dairy Drive
Madison, WI 53718
608-221-2236

Date:
March 21,2024

Time:
11am to 4pm.

Food:
We will have food and beverages catered in. If you have any allergies, please let Megan (info@wqaw.com or 608-358-8458) at WQAW know.

My contact information:

Vincent Kent

vincemkent@gmail.com (Preferred)

finabARRIERWATERtreatment@gmail.com

920-222-9289