

What is a portable hand sink?

A portable hand sink is often a cabinet with 2 removable containers for water and a small water heater. A portable hand sink might also include secondary pumping components, such as a sump pump. It is used in rooms that require a hand sink, such as by a changing table, but where no plumbing was previously available.

In the past:

Childcares have previously been allowed to use portable hand sinks in areas where installing plumbing presented a challenge.

Right now:

During routine inspections, inspectors will note if the facility has any portable hand sinks on site. If the portable hand sinks are properly stocked and used, no action is required at this time. If the hand sink is not properly stocked including having fresh water, the childcare will be given 1 notice. If future violations of the portable hand sink are noted, the childcare will be required to install a permanently plumbed hand sink.

If at any time during an outbreak investigation, the portable hand sink is observed to have contributed to the outbreak, we will require the replacement of the portable with a permanently plumbed hand sink.

Moving forward:

Upon a change of ownership, all portable hand sinks must be removed and replaced with plumbed hand sinks.

Building plans are typically required for commercial plumbing installations. If no building plans are required, please provide documentation in writing from either the City of Reno, City of Sparks, or Washoe County Building that no plans were required for the installation of the hand sink.