

**NC Department of Insurance  
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division  
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202  
919-661-5880**

**Buried Depth of Water Pipe**

**Code:** 2012 Plumbing Code  
**Section:** 305.6

**Date:** September 1, 2011

**Question:**

Can the minimum depth of water pipe be reduced by applying insulation on the pipe?

**Answer:**

No, the top the water pipe shall be installed below the frost line or a minimum of 12" below grade, whichever is the greater. If insulation was placed outside and underground on the water pipe, it would deteriorate over a short period of time; therefore not providing any protection.