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**AS/NZS 3500  
National Plumbing and  
Drainage Code**

**AS/NZS 3500.0:1995  
Glossary of terms**

*(In Professional Packages 30A,  
61A, 61B, 61C)*

81pp DD

Specifies terms primarily intended for use in the interpretation of plumbing and drainage Standards, and covers water supply from the reticulation main into the premises, including hot water service systems, sanitary fixtures, drainage and their associated water and waste fittings, pipe systems and associated components.

*(WS/14) Supersedes AS 3500.0—1990.  
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**Part 0: Glossary of terms**

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**STANDARDS AUSTRALIA**



This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee WS/—/3, Glossary of Terms. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 6 July 1990 and published on 13 August 1990.

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The following interests are represented on Committee WS/—/3:

Brisbane City Council  
Board of Works, Melbourne  
Engineering and Water Supply Department, S.A.  
Hunter Water Board  
Metal Trades Industry Association of Australia  
Subcommittee of the N.S.W Committee for Uniformity of  
Plumbing and Drainage Regulations  
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**Part 0: Glossary of terms**

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First published as AS 1355—1979.  
Revised and redesignated AS 3500.0—1990.

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee on the National Plumbing and Drainage Code, to supersede AS 1355—1979, *Terms used in connection with water and sanitary plumbing and drainage installations*.

The Standard is primarily intended for use in the interpretation of Standards, and covers water supply from the reticulation main into the premises, including hot water service systems, sanitary fixtures, drainage and their associated water and waste fittings, pipe systems and associated components.

The principal changes from the previous edition are as follows:

- (a) The inclusion of many new terms that are related to water supply sewerage and drainage.
- (b) Editorial changes which precludes numbering of definitions are in accordance with Standards Australia editorial policy.

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## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

## Australian Standard

## National plumbing and drainage code

## Part 0: Glossary of terms

Term	Definition
ablution trough	<i>See</i> trough.
absorber	<i>See</i> solar water heater—terms.
absorption pit	A pit, trench or well dug into permeable ground, filled with broken stone, bricks or large granular material and usually covered with earth, where liquid may soak away into the ground. Also called soak away.
absorption test	<i>See</i> test.
access chamber	<i>See</i> chamber.
access cover	<i>See</i> cover.
access fitting	<i>See</i> fitting.
access opening	An opening in a building element fitted with a cover which is removable to allow maintenance of a concealed pipe, fixture or other apparatus.
access pipe	<i>See</i> pipe.
accessible	Capable of being reached for the purposes of inspection, maintenance, repair, or replacement, but may first require removal of an access panel, cover, door or similar obstruction.
adaptor fitting	<i>See</i> fitting.
aeration systems	Systems designed to treat liquid waste by the processes of air injection.
aerator	A device to introduce air into the flow of a liquid as part of a treatment process.
aerobic	A state where molecular oxygen is present.
aerobic treatment systems	<i>See</i> aeration systems.
against-pitch installation	<i>See</i> solar water heater—terms.
air chamber	<i>See</i> chamber.
air cooling equipment	<i>See</i> cooling equipment.
air eliminator	A device which opens to release accumulated air from a hydraulic system and which automatically closes in the presence of a liquid.
air gap	(a) <i>Sanitary plumbing system.</i> The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the outlet of a discharge or waste pipe and the overflow level of the receptacle into which it is discharging. (b) <i>Water supply system.</i> The unobstructed vertical distance through the free atmosphere between the lowest opening of a water service pipe or fixed outlet supplying water to a fixture or receptacle and the highest possible water level of such fixture or receptacle.
air test	<i>See</i> test.
air valve	<i>See</i> valve.
air venting	Allowing air to enter, or escape from a confined space to facilitate movement.
air vessel	A vessel which utilizes the compressibility of contained air to promote a more uniform flow of water.
air/water pressure vessel	A vessel in which water is stored under pressure of compressed air. The vessel forms part of a pumped water supply system. Variations in the amount of water stored are accompanied by variations in the pressure of the air and can be used to control the stopping and starting of the pumps.
airlift	A method of raising liquid by the injection of compressed air.
airlift pump	<i>See</i> pump.
airlock	(a) An air space with doors separating a water closet or urinal apartment and an adjacent room. (b) Air in a pipe which stops the flow of liquid in a pumping circuit.
anaerobic	A state where free oxygen is absent.