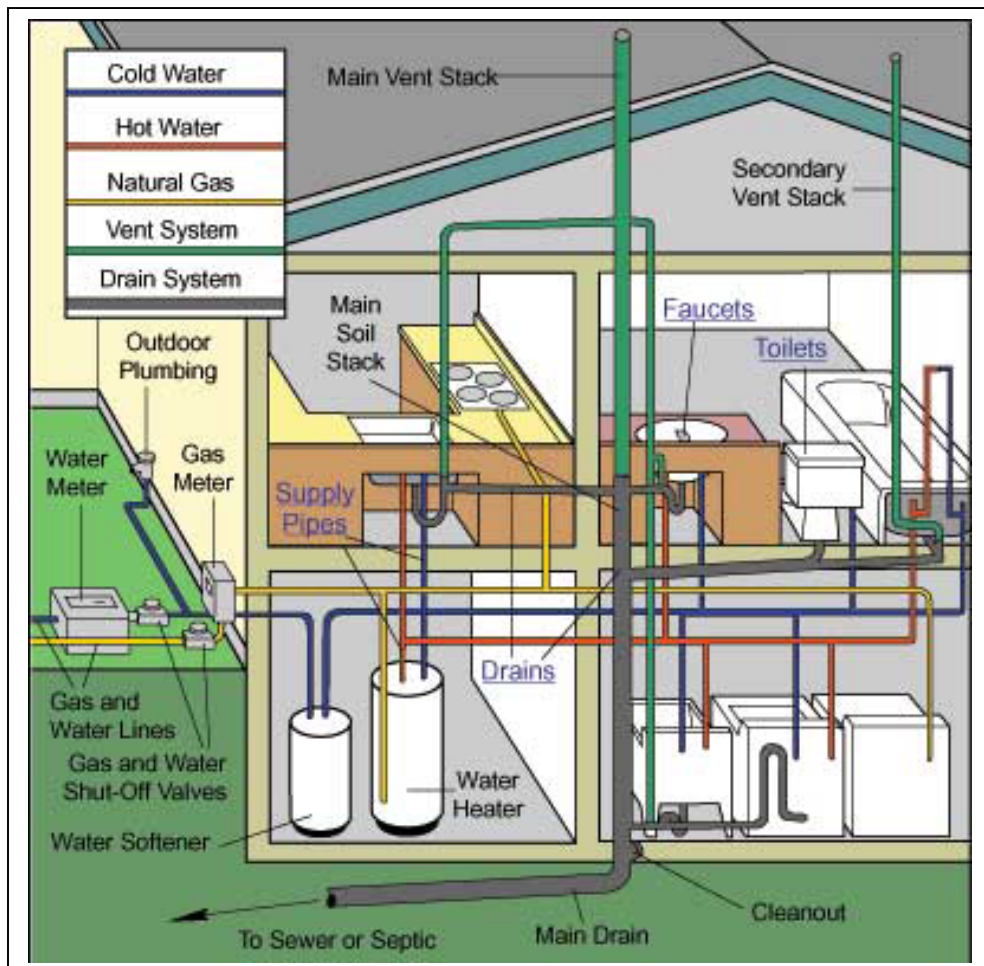




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PLUMBING

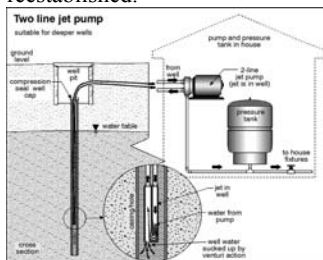
Reference Guide



WATER SUPPLY

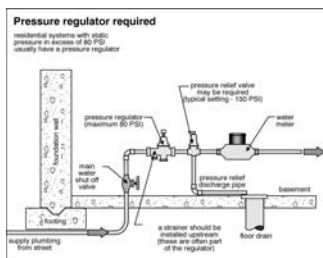
The water supply is either public or private well.

WELL WATER: If you have a well, water is pumped from the well by a motorized pump into a pressure tank and then into the supply system. When demand in the house causes pressure in the tank to drop, the pump turns on the water is drawn out of the well to refill the tank. The pump shuts off automatically when the pressure is reestablished.



A normal well cycles between 40 and 60 pounds per square inch (psi). A main shut-off valve is generally installed near where the supply line enters the home. It is important to know where this is located because you may need to shut off your water supply in the event of an emergency or when work has to be done. Regular water testing is an important step that private well owners can take to ensure that their water supply is both safe to drink and appealing to use.

PUBLIC WATER: Public water pressure is supplied at normally 60 PSI. From the main water supply pipe the pipe branches off to supply the water heater and the other plumbing fixtures such as showers, tubs and sinks.



Horizontal pipes may be installed on a slight decline so that, in case of power failures or major repairs, the entire system can be drained through a valve at its lowest point.

Supply pipes are sometimes designed with air chambers which act as shock absorbers when faucets are rapidly turned off. Without these, the system could develop ruptures from the pressure created by water flow being stopped abruptly. Sometimes, these chambers become filled with water and you will hear banging in the pipes, known as water hammer. If the banging persists, the air chambers can be re-established, by a plumber or a handy homeowner with the aid of a repair manual.

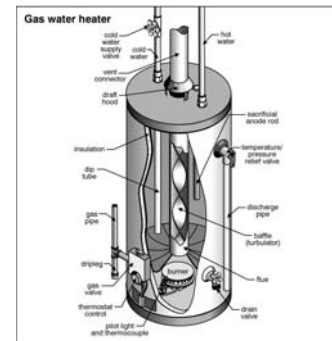
If your plumbing system is operating properly, water pressure should be consistent. For example, water coming out of an upstairs sink should be significantly reduced when the bathtub is running simultaneously. Sometimes, even if water pressure is in the normal range, water flow can be diminished if mineral deposits have built up on the inside surface of pipes or in faucet nozzle screens. These screens should be cleaned periodically.

Most interior residential water supply system use one or more of the following materials for piping: galvanized iron, copper, brass, lead or plastic. If your piping is lead, you may want to have your water laboratory-tested to determine if the lead is contaminating your water supply.

Regardless of the material used, all piping systems must be adequately supported by, or attached to the studs or joists with, compatible hangers, clamps or other approved devices.

WATER HEATERS

Most homes have their water heaters by electric, gas or oil-fired heaters. Tanks normally range in size from 30 to 82 gallons. Modern tanks are covered with a thin layer of enamel to prevent corrosion. Insulation is placed between the tank and the outer metal jacket to minimize heat loss and condensation.



To guard against excessive temperature or pressure, every water heater must have a temperature/pressure relief valve that automatically releases water when the temperature or pressure in the tank reaches its limit.

The temperature setting should be kept as low as is safe to conserve energy and prolong tank life. Water should be at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit to kill microbes, and no more than 130 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit to prevent scalding. Inside some tanks, replaceable magnesium rods are suspended in the water to attract corrosive electrolytes that would otherwise consume the tank walls. These rods can be checked and replaced periodically; however, as a practical matter, this is rarely done.

WATER SOFTENERS

In some geographic areas, water contains excessive amounts of calcium and magnesium, and is known as hard water. Hard water leaves rings around bathroom fixtures and can build up mineral deposits in water heaters and pipes. Water softeners remove these minerals and replace them

