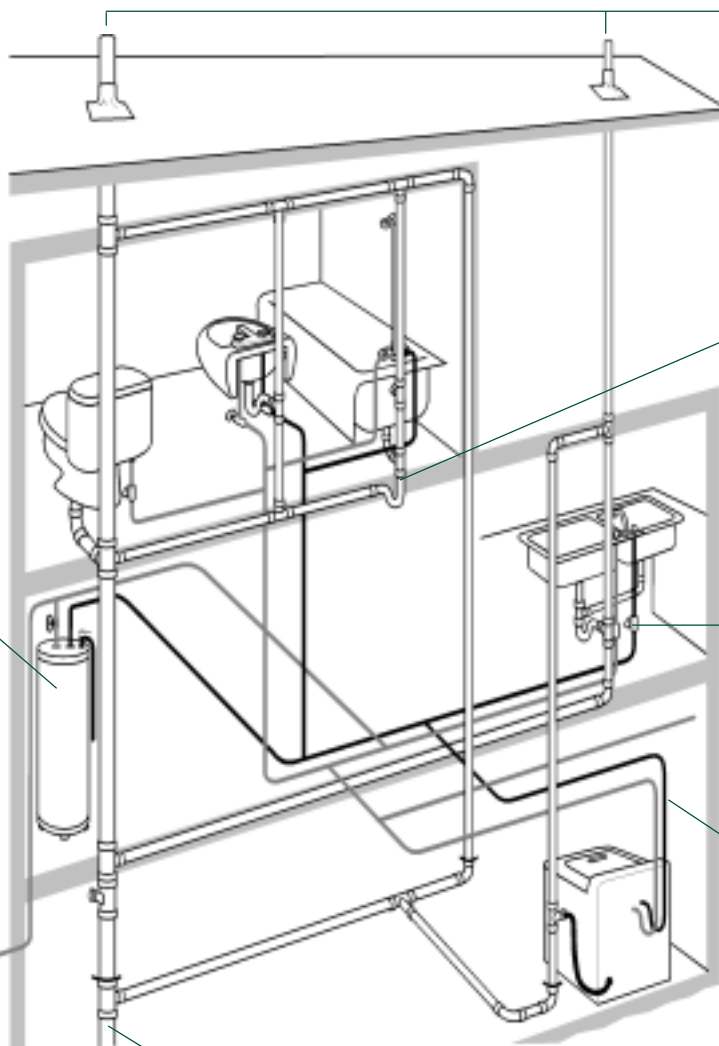


The Big Picture: Your Home Plumbing System

Despite their disparities, all plumbing parts have this in common: they must be tightly joined, free of obstructions and securely supported.



Vent pipes connect to the drainpipes to equalize air pressure in the waste-water drainage system, and to allow naturally occurring sewer gases to escape into the air above the house.

A system of drainpipes carries used water from each fixture to the main drain. Cleanout plugs located along these drainpipes allow plumbers to remove blockages.

Located at each fixture are emergency shutoff valves, which can quickly stop the flow of water in a plumbing emergency (see detailed views below).

Hot- and cold-water supply lines deliver fresh water to fixtures throughout the house.

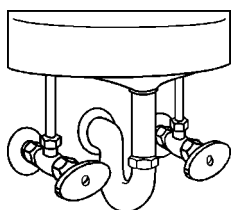
The water in the hot-water supply lines is heated to temperatures of 120 to 140 degrees by the hot water heater.

Water enters the house through the main supply line (or "service pipe"), which runs underground from the street to the house and passes through the water meter and the main shutoff valve.

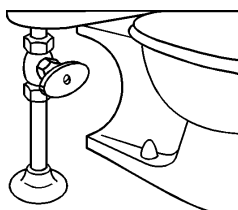
Water exits the house through the main drain, which carries waste-water to the municipal sewer system. Plumbers work on drainpipes inside the house, side-sewer specialists work on the portions located between the house and the street.

Emergency Shutoff Valves

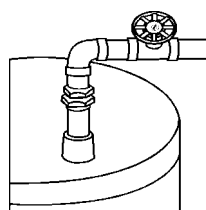
In case of a plumbing emergency, turn the appropriate emergency shutoff valve clockwise to stop the flow of water to the fixture. If the fixture doesn't have a valve, or in case of a major plumbing problem, close the main shutoff valve to stop the flow of water to the whole house.



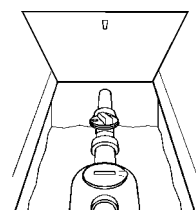
At sinks, there are two shutoff valves, one for the cold water, and one for the hot water.



Just one shutoff valve controls the flow of water into the toilet tank.



Water flow to the water heater is controlled by a valve on top of the tank.



Located in a covered meter-box at the curb, the main shutoff controls the flow of water to the entire house.