



MyDearWatson

PLUMBING



Complete Glossary

Demystifying Plumbing Terminology: Your Comprehensive Glossary

Plumbing is an essential part of every household, but understanding the various terminologies associated with plumbing can be quite confusing. Whether you're a homeowner, a DIY enthusiast, or a professional plumber, it's crucial to have a comprehensive understanding of plumbing terminology to ensure the proper functioning of your home's plumbing system.

In this glossary, we'll be demystifying plumber terminology by providing you with a comprehensive glossary of the most commonly used plumbing terms. From the various types of pipes to plumbing fittings and fixtures, we'll cover it all. By the end of this blog, you'll have a better understanding of the various terminologies associated with plumbing, allowing you to make informed decisions and communicate effectively with your plumber.

Whether you're dealing with a leaky faucet, clogged drains, or a more serious plumbing issue, having a basic understanding of plumbing terminology can go a long way in ensuring a smooth and stress-free plumbing experience. So, whether you're a first-time homeowner, a DIY enthusiast, or a seasoned plumbing professional, read on to demystify plumbing terminology and become a plumbing expert in no time.

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A - ABS

ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene): A type of plastic pipe used in drain, waste, and vent systems.

Access Panel: An opening in a wall or ceiling that provides access to plumbing or other systems behind it.

Acid Neutralizer: A device that is used to neutralize acidic water in a plumbing system and prevent damage to pipes, fixtures, and appliances.

Adaptor: A fitting that is used to connect two pipes of different sizes, types, or materials.

Aerator: A device that mixes air with water to reduce splashing and conserve water flow.

Air Chamber: A vertical section of pipe that is installed near a plumbing fixture to absorb water hammer and prevent pipe damage.

Auger: A tool used by plumbers to clear clogs in drains, toilets, and pipes.

Air Admittance Valve: A one-way valve that allows air to enter the plumbing system while preventing sewer gases from escaping.

Air Gap: A device used to prevent backflow of contaminated water into the clean water supply.

Angle Stop: A valve that is installed in the water supply line to a plumbing fixture, such as a sink or toilet, to control the flow of water.

Adaptor: A fitting that connects two different types or sizes of pipes or fixtures.

Aerator: A device that mixes air with water to reduce splashing and conserve water.

Access Panel: An opening in a wall or ceiling that provides access to plumbing or electrical systems.

Adjustable Wrench: A type of wrench with an adjustable jaw that can fit a range of bolt or pipe sizes.

Auto Vent: Also known as an Air Admittance Valve (AAV), it is a one-way valve that allows air to enter a plumbing system while preventing sewer gases from escaping into the building.

B - BACKFLOW PREVENTER

Backflow Preventer: A device that prevents contaminated water from flowing back into the clean water supply.

Ballcock: A valve that controls the flow of water into a toilet tank.

Ball Valve: A valve that uses a ball to control the flow of water or other fluids.

Bar Sink: A small sink that is typically installed in a bar or entertainment area for quick and easy access to water.

Basin Wrench: Basin Wrench: A specialized wrench used to tighten or loosen nuts and bolts in hard-to-reach places, such as under a sink basin.

Bathroom Group: A set of plumbing fixtures, typically including a sink, toilet, and shower or bathtub, that are installed together in a bathroom.

Black Water: Wastewater that contains solid human waste, typically coming from toilets, which requires different treatment and handling than gray water.

Boiler: A heating appliance that uses water or steam to provide heat to a building, typically used in hydronic heating systems.

Blowbag: A tool that is used to clear clogs in drain pipes by forcing air through the pipes to push the blockage out.

Branch Drain: A secondary drain pipe that connects to the main drain line.

Bullnose: A rounded edge or corner on a plumbing fixture, such as a countertop or shower enclosure.

Burst Pressure: The maximum amount of pressure that a pipe or plumbing system can withstand before breaking or bursting.

Brass Fitting: A plumbing fitting that is made of brass, which is a durable and corrosion-resistant metal often used for water supply lines.

BTU (British Thermal Unit): A unit of measurement used to quantify the amount of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.

C - CHECK VALVE

Check Valve: A valve that is used to prevent backflow in a plumbing system by allowing water to flow in one direction only.

Clean Water: Water that is suitable for drinking, cooking, and other household uses, and is typically supplied by a municipal water system or private well.

Clog: A blockage in a plumbing system caused by the accumulation of debris, such as hair, grease, and food particles, which can cause slow draining or complete blockage of the drain.

Closet Auger: A specialized plumbing tool that is used to clear clogs in toilets by inserting a flexible cable through the toilet trap and into the drain line.

Compression Nut: A threaded nut that is used to secure a compression fitting to a pipe, creating a leak-proof seal.

Copper Pipe: A type of plumbing pipe that is made from copper, which is a durable and corrosion-resistant metal that is commonly used for water supply lines.

Continuous Flow Water Heater: A type of water heater that heats water on demand as it flows through the unit, providing a continuous supply of hot water without the need for a storage tank.

Copper Fitting: A plumbing fitting that is made of copper, which is a durable and corrosion-resistant metal often used for water supply lines. Copper fittings are typically soldered onto copper pipes for a secure, leak-proof connection.

Corrosion: The gradual degradation of metal caused by exposure to water, air, and other elements, which can cause leaks and other plumbing problems.

Coupling: A plumbing fitting that is used to join two pipes together end-to-end, creating a secure and leak-proof connection.

Cross-Connection: A connection between a potable water supply and a source of contamination, such as a non-potable water system or a chemical storage tank.

D - DIELECTRIC UNION

Dielectric Union: A type of plumbing fitting that is used to join two pipes made of different metals, typically copper and steel, while preventing electrolysis and corrosion caused by the interaction of the two metals.

Double Check Valve: A type of backflow prevention device that uses two check valves to prevent the backflow of non-potable water or other substances into the potable water supply.

Drain: A plumbing pipe or system used to remove waste water and sewage from a building or other structure.

Drain Snake: A plumbing tool that is used to clear clogs in drain pipes by inserting a flexible cable into the pipe and rotating it to break up the blockage.

Drainage: The system of pipes, channels, and other components that are used to carry wastewater and other liquids away from a building and into a municipal sewer system.

Drain-Waste-Vent System: A plumbing system that is designed to remove wastewater and other waste materials from a building, while also venting sewer gases to the outside to prevent buildup of pressure and harmful gases in the system. The system typically includes drain pipes, waste pipes, and vent pipes that are connected to each other in a specific layout to ensure proper flow and drainage.

DWV: An abbreviation for "Drain, Waste, and Vent," which refers to a type of plumbing system that is designed to remove waste water and sewage while also providing ventilation to prevent the buildup of harmful gases.

Diaphragm Valve: A type of valve that uses a flexible diaphragm to regulate water flow, typically used in applications where a precise flow rate is required.

Double Check Valve: A type of backflow prevention device that uses two check valves to prevent the reverse flow of water in a plumbing system.

Drip: A small, continuous flow of water from a faucet or other plumbing fixture, which can result in wasted water and increased utility bills if not repaired promptly.

E - EFFLUENT

Effluent: The liquid waste that is discharged from a septic system or other type of sewage treatment system.

Elbow: A plumbing fitting that is used to change the direction of a pipe, typically at a 90-degree angle.

Epoxy: A type of adhesive that is commonly used to repair leaks in plumbing pipes or fixtures by sealing the affected area with a durable, waterproof coating.

Expansion Tank: A device that is used in a plumbing system to absorb excess pressure and prevent damage to the pipes and fixtures caused by thermal expansion.

Extension Tube: A length of pipe or tubing that is used to extend the reach of a plumbing fixture, such as a sink or showerhead.

Ejector Pump: A type of pump that is used to move wastewater or other fluids uphill or against gravity, typically from a basement or lower level to a higher level of a building.

Escutcheon: A decorative plate or cover that is used to conceal the hole or gap where a plumbing pipe passes through a wall or other surface.

Elevation: The vertical height of a plumbing fixture or pipe, typically measured in feet or meters above sea level or a reference point.

Energy Efficiency: A measure of the amount of energy required to operate a plumbing system or fixture, with more efficient systems and fixtures requiring less energy and resulting in lower utility bills and environmental impact.

Expansion Joint: A flexible joint that is used to allow for expansion and contraction of plumbing pipes or other building materials due to temperature changes or other factors, preventing damage and leaks.

Ell: A plumbing fitting that is similar to an elbow but is curved at a more gradual angle, typically between 45 and 60 degrees.

F - FAUCET

Faucet: A valve or tap that is used to control the flow of water from a plumbing system, typically used in sinks, bathtubs, and showers.

Flange: A projecting flat rim or collar used to attach a plumbing pipe or fixture to a surface or other object, often used in toilet installation or shower drain systems.

Float Valve: A valve that is used to automatically control the water level in a plumbing fixture, such as a toilet tank or a water storage tank.

Flow Rate: The volume of water that is delivered by a plumbing fixture or system, typically measured in gallons per minute (GPM) or liters per minute (LPM).

French Drain: A drainage system designed to redirect water away from a building's foundation, typically consisting of a perforated pipe surrounded by gravel or other porous material.

Frost-Proof Hose Bib: A type of outdoor faucet that is designed to prevent freezing during cold weather, typically by extending the water valve inside a heated building and draining any water that remains in the exposed part of the faucet.

Fixture: A device that is connected to a plumbing system to receive or discharge water, typically including sinks, toilets, showers, and bathtubs.

Flapper: A flexible rubber valve that is used to control the flow of water from a toilet tank to the bowl, typically lifted by a chain or lever when the toilet is flushed.

Foot Valve: A type of check valve that is placed at the bottom of a well or other water source to prevent backflow and maintain a constant supply of water to a pump.

Forced Air System: A type of heating and cooling system that uses a fan or blower to circulate air through ducts or vents in a building, often integrated with a central plumbing system.

Fitting: A device or component that is used to connect or join two or more plumbing pipes, typically made of metal, plastic, or other durable material.

Flow Control Valve: A valve that is used to regulate the flow of water through a plumbing system or fixture, typically used to adjust the water pressure or limit the volume of water used.

G - GALVANIZED PIPE

Galvanized Pipe: A type of steel pipe that is coated with a layer of zinc to protect against corrosion and rust, commonly used in older plumbing systems.

Gasket: A flexible material, typically made of rubber or silicone, used to create a tight seal between two plumbing components, such as a toilet tank and bowl or between pipe joints.

Grease Trap: A device designed to prevent grease, oil, and other solid materials from entering the plumbing system, typically used in commercial kitchens and restaurants.

GPM: Gallons per minute, a measurement to indicate the rate of water flow in a plumbing system.

Gas Water Heater: A type of water heater that uses natural gas or propane to heat water, typically more energy-efficient than electric water heaters.

Gate Valve: A type of valve used to control the flow of water in a plumbing system, typically operated by a wheel or handle that turns a gate or wedge-shaped disc to open or close the valve.

Grinder Pump: A type of sewage pump that is used to grind and move solid waste materials, typically used in low-pressure sewer systems and homes with below-grade plumbing.

Gravity System: A type of plumbing system that relies on gravity to move water through pipes, typically used in older homes and buildings.

Green Plumbing: A sustainable plumbing practice that aims to reduce water and energy consumption and minimize waste through the use of efficient fixtures, and low-flow toilets.

Greywater: Wastewater that does not contain human waste, such as water from sinks, showers, and washing machines, that can be recycled and reused for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

Grooved Coupling: A type of fitting used to connect two plumbing pipes or components, typically consisting of a rubber gasket and two clamps that are tightened around the pipe.

Galvanized Fitting: A type of plumbing fitting that is made of galvanized steel and used to connect two or more pipes or components in a plumbing system.

H - HARD WATER

Hard Water: Water that contains high levels of minerals, such as calcium and magnesium, which can cause scale buildup in plumbing fixtures and appliances.

Hose Bib: An outdoor faucet, typically located on the side of a house, that is used to connect a garden hose for watering plants or washing cars.

Hot Water Recirculation System: A plumbing system that is designed to provide instant hot water to faucets and appliances by circulating hot water through the pipes, typically using a pump.

Hanger: A device that is used to support plumbing pipes and keep them in place, typically made of metal or plastic.

HVAC: Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, a system that is used to regulate temperature and air quality in a building.

Horizontal Branch: A plumbing pipe that runs horizontally and is connected to the main soil or waste stack.

Hydronic Heating: A heating system that uses hot water to distribute heat throughout a building, typically through radiators or underfloor heating.

Head: The pressure of water in a plumbing system, typically measured in pounds per square inch (PSI).

Heat Exchanger: A device that is used to transfer heat from one fluid to another, typically used in water heaters and boilers to heat water.

Hydrojetting: A method of cleaning clogged drains and sewer lines using high-pressure water jets to remove buildup and debris.

High-Efficiency Toilet: A type of toilet that uses less water per flush than traditional toilets, typically less than 1.28 gallons per flush.

Heat Tape: A device that is used to prevent pipes from freezing by wrapping them in a heated wire or tape that provides warmth to the pipes.

I - INLET VALVE

Inlet Valve: A valve that controls the flow of water into a plumbing fixture or appliance, typically located at the bottom of the fixture or appliance.

IPS: Iron Pipe Size, a standard measurement for the diameter of pipes used in plumbing, typically measured in inches.

Inverted Loop: A plumbing configuration used to prevent backflow of contaminated water by creating a loop in the piping that is higher than the highest water level in the fixture.

Isolation Valve: A valve that is used to shut off the water supply to a specific plumbing fixture or appliance, typically located near the fixture or appliance.

Indirect Water Heater: A water heating system that uses a heat exchanger to heat water, typically using a boiler or solar panels.

Interceptor: A device that is used to trap and remove solid materials, such as grease and debris, from wastewater before it enters the sewer system.

Infiltration: The process of water seeping into the soil from underground or surface sources, which can lead to drainage problems and damage to plumbing systems.

Inlet Pressure: The pressure of water entering a plumbing system, typically measured in pounds per square inch (PSI).

Insulator: A material that is used to wrap around pipes and plumbing fixtures to prevent heat loss or gain, typically made of foam or fiberglass.

In-Line Check Valve: A valve that is installed in a plumbing line to prevent backflow of contaminated water by allowing water to flow in one direction only.

Inlet Pipe: The pipe that carries water into a plumbing fixture or appliance, typically connected to the inlet valve.

Inverted Siphon: A plumbing configuration used to carry sewage or wastewater under an obstacle, such as a river or road, by creating a U-shaped dip in the piping that allows gravity to move the water up and over the obstacle.

J - JETTER

Jetter: A high-pressure water hose that is used to clear blockages in pipes, typically used in drain cleaning.

Jumper: A short section of pipe that connects two plumbing fixtures or appliances. **Joint:** The point where two sections of pipe or plumbing fixtures are connected together.

Jet Flush: A method of cleaning pipes using high-pressure water jets to remove buildup and debris.

Junction Box: An electrical box used to house wiring connections for a plumbing system or fixture.

J-Bend: A curved section of pipe that connects a sink drain to the drain pipe, also known as a P-trap.

Jet Pump: A type of water pump that uses high-pressure water jets to create suction and move water through pipes.

Jet Swet: A tool used to repair leaks in pipes by creating a temporary seal around the area that needs to be fixed, allowing for a repair without having to shut off the water supply.

Jet Vacuum: A type of vacuum system used to clear blockages in sewer lines, typically used in municipal or industrial settings. **Jackhammer:** A tool used to break up concrete or other hard surfaces, often used in plumbing to access buried pipes.

J-Hook: A type of plumbing hanger that is shaped like a J, used to support pipes and prevent them from sagging.

Joint Compound: A type of adhesive used to seal pipe joints and prevent leaks.

Jetter Nozzle: The nozzle on the end of a jetter hose, which is designed to create high-pressure water jets for cleaning pipes.

Jockey Pump: A small pump that is used to maintain pressure in a fire protection system, ensuring that the system can quickly deliver water in the event of a fire.

K - KEYHOLE SAW

Keyhole saw: A saw with a narrow blade that has a rounded tip and a handle that is shaped like a keyhole. It is used to cut small, intricate shapes in wood or drywall.

Kitec Plumbing: A type of plumbing system that was commonly used in the early 2000s, but is now known to be prone to failure due to issues with the material used in its construction.

Kick Plate Heater: A type of heating unit that is installed under kitchen cabinets or other fixtures, typically used to provide supplemental heat in colder weather.

Kohler: A brand of plumbing fixtures, including toilets, sinks, and showerheads, known for their quality and durability.

Korky: A brand of toilet repair parts, including flappers and fill valves, designed to be easy to install and long-lasting.

Kraus: A brand of high-end kitchen and bathroom fixtures, including sinks, faucets, and showerheads, known for their modern design and high quality.

Kerdi Board: A type of waterproof building material used in shower and bathroom installations, typically made of lightweight foam and covered with a waterproof membrane.

Kick Space Heater: A type of heating unit that is installed under cabinets or other fixtures, typically used to provide supplemental heat in colder weather.

KOHLER Konnect: A technology that allows Kohler plumbing fixtures to be controlled through a smartphone app, enabling users to customize water temperature, flow, and other settings.

Kingston Brass: A brand of plumbing fixtures, including faucets, sinks, and showerheads, known for their classic design and high quality.

Kerdi Shower System: A type of waterproof shower system made by Schluter Systems, including waterproof membranes, drainage systems, and other components.

Kwikset: A brand of plumbing-related hardware, including door locks and handles, known for their durability and easy installation.

L - LEVEL

Lag bolt: A large, heavy-duty bolt used to fasten wood to other materials, typically installed with a wrench or impact driver.

Lateral Line: A pipe that connects a building's plumbing system to the main sewer line. **Lavatory:** A bathroom sink, typically used for washing hands and face.

Leak Detection: The process of locating and identifying leaks in a plumbing system, often using specialized equipment such as cameras and leak detectors.

Lift Station: A pumping station used to lift sewage or other liquids to a higher elevation.

Low-Flow: A term used to describe plumbing fixtures, such as toilets and showerheads, that use less water than traditional fixtures in order to conserve water.

Lead-Free: Refers to plumbing materials, such as pipes and fittings, that are made without lead or other harmful chemicals.

Load-bearing wall: A wall that supports the weight of a building or a portion of a building, typically made of reinforced concrete or thick timber framing.

Loop Vent: A type of vent pipe that is installed in a loop, typically used in kitchen and bathroom sink installations to prevent water from being siphoned out of the trap.

LPG: Stands for liquefied petroleum gas, a common fuel source for heating and cooking that is often used in rural areas or where natural gas is not available.

Lowboy: A type of water heater that is shorter and wider than a traditional water heater, often used in areas with limited space.

Long Radius Elbow: A type of pipe elbow with a long, gradual curve, typically used in plumbing systems to reduce pressure drop and improve flow.

Lavatory Faucet: A type of faucet designed for use with a bathroom sink, typically available in a range of styles and finishes.

Lateral Connection: A connection between a building's plumbing system and the lateral line, typically made using a Y-shaped fitting.

M - MALE FITTING

Male fitting: A plumbing fitting with threads on the outside that are designed to be screwed into a female fitting with threads on the inside.

Macerator: A device that grinds up waste and pumps it through a pipe to the main sewer line, often used in situations where it is not practical to install traditional plumbing.

Manifold: A plumbing fitting that connects multiple supply lines to a single point, often used in systems with multiple fixtures.

Mixing Valve: A valve that mixes hot and cold water to achieve a desired temperature, often used in showers and other plumbing fixtures.

Main Line: The largest sewer line in a plumbing system, typically connected to the city's sewer system.

Meter: A device used to measure water usage in a plumbing system, often installed by the local utility company.

Mold: A type of fungus that can grow in damp environments, including in plumbing systems.

Mini Split: A type of HVAC system that uses individual indoor units to cool or heat specific rooms, often used in homes without central heating and cooling systems.

MIP: Stands for male iron pipe, a type of threaded pipe fitting used in plumbing systems.

Mastic: A type of sealant often used to seal pipes and other plumbing fixtures to prevent leaks.

Megaohm: A unit of electrical resistance used to measure the insulation properties of pipes and other plumbing materials.

Mechanical Joint: A type of joint that uses a mechanical fitting, such as a clamp or compression coupling, to connect two pipes together.

Mounting Block: A block of wood or plastic that is used to anchor plumbing fixtures to walls or other surfaces, often used in new construction or during remodeling projects.

Mortar: A mixture of cement, sand, and water used to hold pipes, fittings, and other plumbing components in place.

N - NAIL GUN

Nipple extractor: A tool used to remove a broken or stuck nipple, which is a short length of pipe with threads on both ends that is used to connect two fittings or to extend a pipe run.

Non-return valve: A valve that prevents the backflow of water or other fluids in a plumbing system, typically used in applications such as sump pumps and water heaters.

Neutralizer: A device used to treat acidic water by neutralizing the acid content, typically using a chemical process.

Nut: A threaded fastener used to secure plumbing fittings, typically made of metal or plastic and designed to be tightened with a wrench or pliers.

No-hub coupling: A flexible coupling used to connect pipes with hubless cast-iron fittings, typically used in drainage and vent systems.

Nylon washer: A washer made of nylon material that is used to create a watertight seal between plumbing components, typically used with a nut and a bolt or a screw.

Needle valve: A valve that allows for precise flow control of a fluid in a plumbing system, typically used in applications such as laboratory equipment and gas systems.

Nipple: A short length of pipe with threads on both ends, typically used to connect two fittings or to extend a pipe run.

Nominal size: The approximate size of a plumbing component based on the inside diameter of the pipe or fitting, typically expressed in inches or millimeters.

Negative head: A condition in which the pressure of water in a plumbing system is insufficient to supply a shower, faucet, or other fixture located above the level of the water source.

Non-metallic: A term used to describe plumbing components that are made of materials other than metal, such as plastic or fiberglass.

Nitrile rubber: A synthetic rubber material used in plumbing components such as gaskets and O-rings, known for its resistance to oil, fuel, and other chemicals.

O - OIL FILTER WRENCH

Overflow: A device that prevents a sink, tub, or toilet from overflowing by allowing excess water to drain away through a secondary outlet.

O-ring: A small, round rubber gasket used to create a watertight seal between two plumbing components.

Offset: A plumbing fitting that is used to connect pipes that are not aligned, typically used in drain and waste systems.

Oil separator: A device used to remove oil and other contaminants from wastewater before it is discharged into a sewer or septic system.

One-piece toilet: A type of toilet that features a tank and bowl that are integrated into a single unit, typically used in modern bathroom designs.

Open vent system: A type of plumbing system in which the pressure in the water supply system is used to move water through the pipes and fixtures.

Outlet box: A plumbing component that contains the valves and connections for a fixture such as a washing machine or ice maker, typically installed in a wall or floor.

Overflow pipe: A pipe that is connected to a plumbing fixture such as a sink or bathtub, designed to prevent the fixture from overflowing by allowing excess water to drain away through a secondary outlet.

Outdoor faucet: A fixture that is installed on the exterior of a building to provide water for activities such as gardening and car washing.

Over-tightening: The act of tightening a plumbing fitting, nut, or bolt beyond the recommended torque or tension, which can cause damage to the component or create a leak.

Outlet: A plumbing component that allows water to flow out of a pipe or fixture, typically used in applications such as sinks, showers, and toilets.

Oxygen barrier: A coating or layer of material used in plumbing pipes and fittings to prevent the diffusion of oxygen into the water, which can cause corrosion and rust in metal components.

P - PADDLE BIT

P-trap: A plumbing component in the shape of a 'P' that is used to prevent sewer gases from entering a building through a plumbing fixture, typically installed under sinks and other drains.

PVC: Polyvinyl chloride, a type of plastic used in plumbing pipes and fittings due to its durability, affordability, and resistance to corrosion.

Pressure gauge: A device used to measure the pressure of water or other fluids in a plumbing system, typically installed on a water supply line or pump.

Pressure regulator: A plumbing component used to control the pressure of water in a plumbing system, typically installed on a water supply line.

Pressure tank: A device used to store and regulate the pressure of water in a plumbing system, typically used in well systems and other applications where the water pressure fluctuates.

Pitch: The angle or slope of a pipe or drain, typically expressed in inches of fall per foot of run, designed to ensure that water flows in the desired direction and prevents standing water.

Plug: A threaded or push-in fitting used to seal off the end of a pipe or other plumbing component, typically made of metal or plastic.

Potable water: Water that is safe and suitable for human consumption, typically supplied by a municipal or private water system.

Plumbing snake: A flexible tool used to clear clogs in plumbing pipes and fixtures, typically made of coiled wire or plastic.

Point of use: A term used to describe plumbing fixtures or appliances that are located close to where they are used, such as a hot water dispenser or under-sink filter.

Pipe wrench: A tool used to tighten or loosen threaded plumbing components such as pipes and fittings, typically made of steel and designed to provide a strong grip.

Propane: A flammable gas used as a fuel source in plumbing systems such as water heaters, furnaces, and outdoor grills, typically stored in a tank or cylinder.

R - RADIAL ARM SAW

Reducer: A plumbing fitting that is used to connect pipes of different sizes, typically designed to reduce the diameter of the pipe.

Relief valve: A safety device that automatically opens to release pressure or temperature in a plumbing system, typically used in applications such as water heaters and boilers.

Riser: A vertical pipe that connects a plumbing fixture or appliance to a water supply or waste line, typically used in multi-story buildings.

Rough-in: The initial installation of plumbing pipes and fixtures in a building, typically done before the walls and floors are finished.

R-value: A measure of the insulation value of a material, typically used in plumbing applications such as water heater jackets and pipe insulation.

Repair coupling: A plumbing fitting that is used to repair a damaged or leaking section of pipe, typically designed to be installed without cutting the pipe.

Run: The length of a plumbing pipe that runs horizontally between two fixtures or fittings, typically measured from center to center.

Rainwater harvesting: The practice of collecting and storing rainwater for later use, typically used in plumbing systems for irrigation and non-potable water supply.

Reverse osmosis: A water filtration process that removes impurities and contaminants from water by passing it through a semipermeable membrane, typically used in plumbing systems for drinking water and other applications.

Reaming: The process of removing burrs and rough edges from the inside of a plumbing pipe or fitting, typically done with a specialized tool.

Root intrusion: The growth of tree roots into plumbing pipes, which can cause blockages and damage to the pipes over time.

Recirculating pump: A device used to circulate hot water through a plumbing system, typically installed near the water heater and used to reduce wait time for hot water at fixtures.

S - SEALANT

Septic system: A wastewater treatment system that uses a tank and drainfield to treat and dispose of wastewater from a home or building, typically used in rural areas without access to a municipal sewer system.

Sanitary tee: A plumbing fitting in the shape of a 'T' that is used to connect a horizontal drain line to a vertical stack, typically used in plumbing systems for sinks, toilets, and other fixtures.

Shut-off valve: A plumbing valve that is used to control the flow of water in a plumbing system, typically located near the fixture or appliance being serviced.

Sump pump: A device used to remove water from a sump pit or basement, typically used in homes with below-grade plumbing fixtures or in areas with a high water table.

Sweat fitting: A type of plumbing fitting that is soldered onto copper pipe, typically used in water supply and heating systems.

Supply line: The pipe or tubing that carries water from the water supply to a plumbing fixture or appliance, typically made of copper, plastic, or stainless steel.

Stack: A vertical plumbing pipe that carries waste and vent gases from multiple floors or fixtures to the main sewer or septic system.

Solvent cement: A type of adhesive used to join plastic plumbing pipes and fittings, typically applied with a brush or applicator.

Strainer: A plumbing component that is installed in a sink or shower drain to prevent debris and hair from clogging the drain line.

Service entrance: The point where the main water supply line enters a building, typically located near the water meter and shut-off valve.

Showerhead: A plumbing fixture that is installed above a bathtub or shower to distribute water, typically available in a variety of styles and flow rates.

Snake: A tool used to clear clogs in plumbing pipes and fixtures, typically made of coiled wire or plastic and available in a variety of lengths and diameters.

T - TACK STRIP

Trap: A plumbing component that is installed in a drain line to prevent sewer gases from entering a building, typically designed to hold water and create a barrier between the sewer and the building.

Tee: A plumbing fitting in the shape of a 'T' that is used to join three pipes together, typically used in plumbing systems for water supply and drainage.

Tankless water heater: A type of water heater that heats water on demand, rather than storing it in a tank, typically used in homes with limited space or high hot water demand.

Thermostat: A device used to regulate the temperature of a water heater or other plumbing appliance, typically adjustable and available in a variety of styles and features.

Tub: A plumbing fixture used for bathing, typically available in a variety of sizes and materials, such as acrylic, fiberglass, and porcelain.

Threaded fitting: A type of plumbing fitting that is screwed onto a pipe or other fitting, typically used in water supply and heating systems.

Test plug: A temporary plumbing fitting used to seal a pipe or drain during testing or repairs, typically available in a variety of sizes and materials.

Trap primer: A device used to add water to a trap that is seldom used, such as a floor drain or basement sink, to prevent it from drying out and allowing sewer gases to enter the building.

Trenchless technology: A method of installing or repairing underground plumbing pipes without the need for excavation, typically used to reduce disruption and cost.

Tap: A connection point for a water supply line, typically used to provide water to a plumbing fixture or appliance.

Temperature and pressure relief valve (T&P valve): A safety device installed on a water heater or other plumbing appliance to release excess pressure or temperature, typically designed to prevent explosions or other hazards.

U - UNDERLAYMENT

Union: A type of plumbing fitting that allows for the easy disassembly and reassembly of pipes or other fittings, typically used in systems that may require maintenance or repair.

Urinal: A plumbing fixture used for the disposal of human waste, typically found in public restrooms and commercial buildings.

Urinal flush valve: A plumbing component used to regulate the flow of water in a urinal, typically activated by a handle or sensor.

Underground plumbing: Plumbing systems that are installed beneath the ground, typically used to provide water and sewage services to buildings.

Upflush toilet: A type of toilet that is designed to pump waste water up to a higher level, typically used in basements or other areas where traditional plumbing is difficult or impossible.

U-trap: A type of plumbing trap that is shaped like a 'U', typically used to prevent sewer gases from entering a building through a drain.

Utility sink: A large, deep sink typically used for washing large items or tools, typically found in garages, workshops, or laundry rooms.

Ultraviolet water treatment: A method of water treatment that uses ultraviolet light to kill bacteria and other microorganisms, typically used in drinking water systems.

Underground bore: A method of installing or repairing underground plumbing pipes by boring a hole beneath the surface, typically used to reduce excavation and disruption.

Urinal strainer: A plumbing component used to trap debris and prevent it from entering the plumbing system, typically found in urinals and other plumbing fixtures.

Under-sink water filter: A type of water filtration system that is installed beneath a sink, typically used to remove impurities and improve water quality.

Upstream: A term used in plumbing to refer to the direction of water flow in a pipe, typically from the point of use back to the source.

V - VALVE

Valve: A plumbing component used to control the flow of water or gas in a plumbing system, typically available in a variety of styles and types.

Vent: A plumbing component used to allow air to flow into or out of a plumbing system, typically used to prevent a vacuum or pressure buildup.

Vacuum breaker: A plumbing device used to prevent the backflow of contaminated water into a clean water supply, typically used in irrigation systems and outdoor faucets.

Vent stack: A vertical plumbing pipe that extends through the roof of a building, typically used to provide ventilation to the plumbing system and prevent sewer gases from entering the building.

Viscosity: A term used to describe the thickness or flow rate of a liquid, typically relevant in plumbing when determining the appropriate pipe size for a particular application.

Vitrified clay pipe: A type of sewer pipe made from clay that has been fired at a high temperature, typically used in gravity-fed sewer systems.

Valve seat: The surface on which a valve rests to create a seal and control water flow.

Valve stem: The part of a valve that extends into the valve body and is turned to control the flow of water or gas in a plumbing system.

Valve handle: The part of a valve that is turned to open or close the valve, typically available in a variety of styles and shapes.

Volume flow rate: Used to describe the volume of water or other fluid that flows through a plumbing system in a given amount of time, typically measured in gallons per minute or cubic feet per second.

Vertical stack: A type of plumbing system in which waste water and sewage flow downward through a vertical pipe, typically found in high-rise buildings and other tall structures.

Vacuum plumbing system: A type of plumbing system that uses air pressure to move waste water and sewage through pipes, used in situations where traditional gravity-fed systems are not feasible.

W - WALL ANCHOR

Waste pipe: A plumbing pipe that carries wastewater from plumbing fixtures to the sewer or septic system.

Water hammer: A loud banging or vibrating noise in a plumbing system that occurs when the flow of water is suddenly shut off or redirected.

Water heater: A plumbing appliance that heats water for domestic use, typically using electricity, gas, or another fuel source.

Water main: The primary underground water pipe that brings fresh water into a building from the municipal supply.

Water pressure: The force at which water flows through a plumbing system, typically measured in pounds per square inch (PSI).

Water meter: A device that measures the amount of water that flows through a building's plumbing system, typically used for billing purposes.

Water supply line: A plumbing pipe that carries fresh water from the municipal supply or well to a plumbing fixture.

Wax ring: A sealing ring made of wax and used to create a watertight seal between a toilet and the waste pipe.

Weeping tile: A type of drainage pipe that is perforated with small holes and installed around the foundation of a building to help prevent water damage and flooding.

Wet vent: A plumbing vent pipe that also serves as a drain pipe for one or more plumbing fixtures, typically used in combination with a toilet or sink.

Wye fitting: A plumbing fitting that is shaped like the letter "Y" and used to connect two or more pipes at an angle. **Water closet:** A plumbing fixture that is used for the disposal of human waste and toilet paper, also known as a toilet.



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Empowering homeowners and professional plumbers alike: The Importance of plumbing Terminology

In conclusion, the importance of plumber terminology cannot be overstated. Whether you are a homeowner, DIY enthusiast, or professional plumber, understanding plumbing terminology is essential for proper maintenance, repair, and communication. With a solid understanding of the terms used in plumbing, homeowners can better troubleshoot plumbing issues, communicate effectively with plumbers, and make informed decisions about their plumbing systems. For professional plumbers, a shared understanding of plumbing terminology ensures clear communication and effective collaboration on plumbing projects. Plumbing is a complex and technical trade, and a common vocabulary for discussing plumbing issues ensures that everyone is on the same page. By promoting a shared understanding of plumbing terminology, we can improve communication between homeowners and plumbers and ensure that plumbing issues are resolved efficiently and effectively. In summary, a solid understanding of plumbing terminology is essential for both homeowners and professional plumbers. By demystifying plumbing jargon and providing a comprehensive glossary of plumbing terms, we hope to empower everyone to better maintain and repair their plumbing systems, communicate more effectively, and make informed decisions about their plumbing projects.

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