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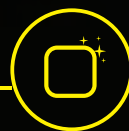
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# Plumber

## HEADING BACK HOME

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SUCCESSFUL INSTALLS  
BEGIN WITH KNOWING  
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On the ROAD

## High-Pressure Approach

Texas plumber's powerful water jetters punch above their weight for productivity.

- By Ken Wysocky



### On the Cover

Daniel Bearden, owner of Bearden Plumbing Solutions, uses a RIDGID SeeSnake 131-foot Compact C40 Reel and a CS6X Versa Monitor to see what they could discover for a business in Rome, Georgia, that had a drain clogged. Bearden started his plumbing company six years ago and has just one apprentice working with him. The company offers servicing and replacement of household plumbing fixtures, replacement of pipe inside and outside a home or business, water heater installation and repair, camera inspection of sewer lines, sewer and drain installation, cleaning and repair, and backflow testing. (Photography by Kaylinn Gilstrap)

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# Plumber

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Cory Dellenbach

## Keep on Teaching

Apprentices are that next line of plumbers making their way up the ladder, make sure they have the tools to be successful

**L**ast month I focused on how to get the next generation — middle and high school students — interested in the plumbing industry. This month, I want to talk about the group after them.

The men and women that are just starting out with your company and will need the guidance you can provide. Yes, I'm talking about the apprentices.

Be there next to them talking them through the work or letting them know if they are doing something correctly, or wrong.

I've seen social media posts stating that the apprentices are just there to help carry the heavy equipment or do the dirty work. In reality, they are there because they love this industry as much as you do and want to learn to be a great plumber.

Don't give them that job of running to the truck every five minutes for parts, let them get the hands-on work that they want. Be there next to them talking them through the work or letting them know if they are doing something correctly, or wrong.

Daniel Bearden, whose company is profiled in this issue, started off as an apprentice and appreciates that to this day, crediting the companies he worked for making him the plumber he is today with a successful company just outside of Atlanta.

Bearden is now teaching an apprentice of his own who is almost done with his work and will need to bring on someone new soon. He's taken pride in teaching that next generation of plumbers.

"I didn't expect to enjoy watching him learn, but he's excited about the trade and it's a joy watching him come into his own," Bearden says of his apprentice.

That is the type of excitement each of you should have as you teach anyone about this industry. If you aren't, are you really teaching the right way?

### RESIDENTIAL WORK

A lot of the work that Bearden and his company handles is residential work, which just happens to be one of the editorial focuses of this issue too. I know most of you do residential service, repair and installation work.

It can be stressful at times dealing with homeowners day in and day out, but it's that is likely where most of your revenue comes from.

Take a look through our Product Focus this month and check out some of the newest and updated equipment and tools on the market for residential plumbing work. Maybe there is something in there that can help you do the job better or faster for a customer?

### YOUR ADVICE

What is the biggest thing you learned as an apprentice that you carry with you today or what have you learned while doing residential plumbing work? I'd love hearing from you. You can email me at [editor@plumbermag.com](mailto:editor@plumbermag.com) or calling 715-350-8436.

Enjoy this issue! **P**



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## OVERHEARD ONLINE

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— 3 Questions to Ask When an Employee Makes a Mistake

▶ [plumbermag.com/featured](http://plumbermag.com/featured)

## SAY CHEESE

### A Gallery of Plumbers

When photographers accompany our profiled contractors on job sites, far more photos are taken than are able to fit on the pages of the magazine. So every so often we put some photo galleries up on the website of those extra snapshots. Check out the latest one featuring our most recently profiled companies. ▶ [plumbermag.com/featured](http://plumbermag.com/featured)



## GENEROSITY

### Company's Annual Charity Project Marks Another Year

One would think that after eight years, Minnesota's T 'N G Plumbing had pretty much tapped out the ways it could evolve its Pay It Forward program. But for 2021's project it found a way to continue to grow, adding a couple of national sponsors to the abundance of local support it has had over the years. Read all about this year's project in this online exclusive.

▶ [plumbermag.com/featured](http://plumbermag.com/featured)



## HELP HOMEOWNERS

### Debunking Water Damage Myths

It's difficult to understand the gravity of a situation until experiencing it firsthand. That's why homeowners who have never experienced a leak issue often underestimate water damage risks and aren't proactive enough. As a plumber, you're in a position to help. This online exclusive covers some common misconceptions people have about water damage and what you can do to help educate your customers.

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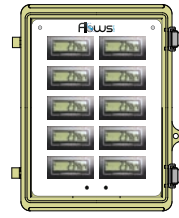


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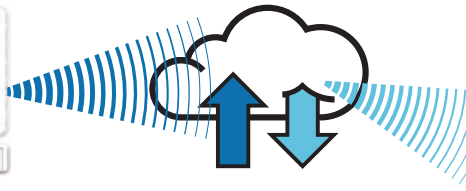


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▼ Daniel Bearden, owner of Bearden Plumbing Solutions in Adairsville, Georgia, stands with the company's Ford 2020 sprinter van. Bearden founded the company six years ago after moving away from Atlanta.

# HEADING BACK HOME

Georgia plumber leaves big city life to return to hometown to build a company based on quality work and solid reputation

By Giles Lambertson  
Photography by Kaylinn Gilstrap





## Bearden Plumbing Solutions

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>OWNER</b>                     | Daniel Bearden   |
| <b>YEARS COMPANY IN BUSINESS</b> | Almost 6 years   |
| <b>EMPLOYEES</b>                 | One  |
| <b>SERVICES</b>                  | Servicing and replacement of household plumbing fixtures, replacement of pipe inside and outside a home or business, water heater installation and repair, camera inspection of sewer lines, sewer and drain installation, cleaning and repair, backflow testing |
| <b>SERVICE AREA</b>              | Bartow, Gordon, Floyd (and a little bit of Cobb) counties in northern Georgia  |
| <b>WEBSITE</b>                   | <a href="http://www.beardenplumbingsolutions.com">www.beardenplumbingsolutions.com</a>   |

**D**aniel Bearden learned the plumbing trade in Atlanta. However, when he decided to open his own plumbing business, Bearden left behind the region's urban mecca and drove north 45 miles to rural Bartow County where he had been born and raised. Why? "I love Bartow County," he says.

Easy enough to see why. Bearden retreated from Atlanta traffic and other urban ills to set up shop in a more bucolic place with a population of 100,000. It contains such landmarks as earthen mounds left by Native Americans a thousand years ago, a science museum, a Western museum and Red Top Mountain State Park featuring a 12,000-acre boating and swimming lake.

Yet Bearden doesn't rue his 20 years working in the state capital. Atlanta was where he acquired and polished the plumbing skills that let him return home. And he credits two men in the city with giving him a foundation from which to launch his business.

One was a master plumber and utility contractor, Tommy Dillard. Dillard first introduced Bearden to essential pipeline work for new construction, commercial and industrial customers.

▶ Cody Letner, apprentice at Bearden Plumbing Solutions, removes a section of pipe at a business in Rome, Georgia.

"I felt like I was just a shovel and a jackhammer for a while," Bearden recalls of his stint on sewer mains and storm drains. But Dillard became a teacher of the craft. "He took me under his wing and let me go with him on weekends to do plumbing for family and friends."

When the national economy was disrupted in 2001, Bearden went a different direction. He had previously bumped into Bruce Brewer, the manager of Fulton Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, a long-established company serving the Atlanta metro area. Brewer had given Bearden a business card and Bearden decided it was time to call the number.





“My biggest competitor is myself. If I focus on what I am doing and set the goals high for myself and my employee, we’re doing what we’re supposed to be doing.”

**Daniel Bearden**

“He became mentor number two,” Bearden says with evident gratitude. “I gave him a call and it was fantastic. I was a younger guy, and he took me in, showed me the ropes and had me get a journeyman license. That’s when I began to realize you could make money in Georgia doing plumbing work.”

For most of the next 15 years, Bearden honed his skills plumbing both modest and higher-end homes and learning “how to be a service guy.” Finally, at age 40, Bearden, having earned master plumber’s licensure, packed up his tools and skills and took them home to Adairsville in Bartow County. He was starting over, but as his own boss.

“I had a dream and a pickup truck, and I was upside down on the truck.” Six years later, Bearden Plumbing is becoming a big part of the local community.

### **BUILDING UP**

Bearden says his company’s original service area was “wherever I could get a call. When you are a small and new company, you take it all.” His service offerings were equally open-ended then, and still are. Bearden has an “all-inclusive” approach to working with water infrastructure. “Right from

▲ Cody Letner digs to the pipe in order to run a camera inspection on it at a business job site.

## **Building relationships to retain customers**

Daniel Bearden’s approach to taking care of his customers can be summarized in one sentence: “We do plumbing, but we are in the relationship business.”

So says the owner of Bearden Plumbing Solutions, which serves Adairsville in northern Georgia as well as some surrounding counties. The relationship-building is on two fronts. First is the company’s effort to “be your lifelong plumber,” as it says on the company website.

Bearden calls it “growing those generational customers. I tell customers I want to be your guy, but I also want to be your mom’s guy and your uncle’s guy. We are the quintessential small-town local plumber just forming relationships through honesty and integrity in the work we do. People don’t change. Marketing and technologies can change, but people remain the same.”

The second front is the company’s support of activities and organizations in local communities. It is not a half-hearted effort.

“We are trying to let the community know that we are not just sitting over here not caring about what’s going on in our community,” Bearden says. “We try to support the schools in any way we can. We look for ways to get behind various kinds of ministries. We want to be an active part of what’s going on.”

He says this extra dimension of interaction with the people of Bartow County and surrounding parts of northern Georgia gives his work as a tradesman more value. “At the end of the day, that’s what it is all about for us. We need to make a profit, we need to make money, sure, but the relationships we have built make it all so much more special.”

In one of the hundred or more testimonies on the company website, a satisfied customer added a final compliment — “He even petted my dog.” Bearden laughs about it. “It’s real. People can tell fake from real. I love what I do and what it has done for me.”

the beginning, I did drains and sewer lines, faucets, water heaters, an occasional waterline — and I still do.”

The difference today is that he has an apprentice helping him. Rather than advertise for an experienced plumber to join the company and share the workload, Bearden took the view that “if there were a plumber out there worth his salt, he already had a job. I decided I would just build one.”

So, he did. Two years ago, the twice-mentored business owner became the mentor to Cody Letner, who is in his final year of apprenticeship at Bearden Plumbing. “I didn’t expect to enjoy watching him learn, but he’s excited about the trade and it’s a joy watching him come into his own,” Bearden says.

Letner will study for his journeyman license the first of the year and then take on a bigger share of responsibility at the company. Bearden is cross-training Letner in all the services the company provides.

▼ Cody Letner removes the camera of the RIDGID SeeSnake Compact C40 reel and monitor from a pipe.



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“We’ve had a lot of people move in since I’ve been back. They leave the hustle and bustle of the Atlanta metro area to find a small-town feel. We are that small town, and we want to be their plumber.”

*Daniel Bearden*

▲ Cody Letner, left, operates a RIDGID SeeSnake Compact C40 Reel and CS6X Versa Monitor camera, while Daniel Bearden uses a NaviTrack Scout Locator to see what they could discover for a business that was having a drain clogging issue.

“That’s how I was trained and I’m emulating the training I went through,” Bearden says. “I want the company service to be consistent.”

Most of their calls are to residential properties, a customer base that keeps growing as more and more people choose to live in outlying metro counties and commute into Atlanta. Developers are rapidly building subdivisions to house the newcomers, all of whom will need plumbing services.

“There are a lot of new subdivisions. Anywhere there is dirt, someone is putting in a subdivision,” says Bearden. “We’ve had a lot of people move in since I’ve been back. They leave the hustle and bustle of the Atlanta metro area to find a small-town feel. We are that small town, and we want to be their plumber.”

But the company is growing its commercial side, too, already doing all the work for local Chick-fil-A and Hampton Inn franchises and several manufacturing facilities. So far, none of the commercial work is contractual, with maintenance plans and such.

While the portability of Bearden’s plumbing and knowledge serves him well in Adairsville and rural communities in surrounding counties, not everything is the same as it was in Atlanta. Sewer lines, for instance, a mainstay of Bearden’s service work in the city, are a smaller component of his work: Most of his customers’ homes are on septic tanks. And while Atlanta home-heating systems were fueled by natural gas, the equivalent heating unit in Bartow County could be fueled by either natural gas or propane.

“That has been the biggest change,” Bearden says of the differences between urban and rural systems. “Our service calls have had to morph into something a little different.” Ultimately, though, the differences hold promise of giving the company extra work. “I’m going to offer septic tank services in the near future. I have a good relationship with septic tank companies, but I’m going to start working on septic tank certification. It’s the obvious next step.”

## **A MIX OF EVERYTHING**

Asked what constitutes a typical plumbing service call

now, Bearden says “we don’t have a typical job. I preach to my guy we have to be ready for all challenges. Whatever the call, we try to take our time with each client and look at the big picture rather than just focus on, say, a leaking toilet. We want to make sure the problem we’re addressing is not just a symptom.”

Drain-clearing calls also are nontypical, with new PVC lines being installed in older areas to replace various dimensions of clay and concrete pipes. “Most sewers here are 4-inch, but this week we worked on a 6-inch drain at a plant and an inch-and-a-half line in a home. We run into all of it but usually we’re installing 4-inch lines.”

The plumbing team also encounters plenty of copper pipe in older homes. The traditional metal water pipes always will be in the mix of piping to be repaired or installed, the 47-year-old plumber says. “PEX is right up there with it though,” he says. “I was brought up doing copper. That’s all I did for years. Soldering is an art form.”

Soldering is giving way to ProPress now. Introduced some 30 years ago, the clamping method requires no flame and is a much quicker joining mechanism. Though Bearden welcomes new tools and procedures, he says he likes to “stand back and watch them for a while” to satisfy himself

they are good for his customers. He is convinced ProPress is such a product.

“You have to be fluid in your learning. There always are new materials and technology coming out and if you are not on the cusp of that you are going to be left behind. That’s not a position we want to work from.”

On the other hand, he knows a good thing when he sees it. In water heaters, for example, he usually recommends a Rheem unit. “Every plumber has his own take. I think about the products I’ve had the least problems with, and Rheem is one of those I really have had the least callbacks on.” The company installs 100-150 water heaters a year.

“You have to be fluid in your learning. There always are new materials and technology coming out and if you are not on the cusp of that you are going to be left behind.”

*Daniel Bearden*

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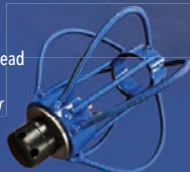
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## EXPANSION ON THE WAY

Befitting a two-man operation, Bearden Plumbing Solutions has held off investing in equipment used periodically. Bearden rents a mini-excavator as needed for water and sewer line replacement work. When a trenchless solution is called for, the company subs out the work to an Atlanta-based company that regularly partners with Bearden Plumbing.

“In our area, we mostly trench,” Bearden says of his rural customer base. “We have run into some situations where it makes more sense to use trenchless relining. In Atlanta, we used trenchless quite often, but you have to keep in mind the demographics here. Plus, there is less landscaping to worry about disturbing.”

But he already is planning for expansion of his services, probably including trenchless pipe work. “We’ll be doing septic work at some point. I’m already a certified backflow tester. I’m not yet doing a lot of that, but it’s another tool in my toolbox. It will be an easy transition into other services.”

The company owner has relied on an older model RIDGID camera for his pipe inspection work, but that changed last year when he bought a new compact RIDGID SeeSnake C40 that he can run off his iPad. He enthuses about the difference that camerawork makes to plumbing.

“We offer camera work with every drain call because we want to make sure we have the problem fixed and the customer sees the value of what we have done,” he says. “That camera is a game-changer. When I first started, I remember being taught how to look at the street for cracks in the asphalt to determine where a leak problem was. It was guesswork.”

He has a General Pipe Cleaners JM-1450 electric jetter for interior drain cleaning, which his customers frequently request. One in five of service calls request a jetting of the lines. “We want to provide the best solution that fits a customer’s budget.”

He has hauled his equipment from site to site in a 14-foot enclosed trailer, but recently purchased a new Ford Transit van. When Letner becomes fully licensed, the Transit will become the apprentice’s service truck and Bearden will return to driving his pickup. “The Transit is nice, but it doesn’t have the carrying capacity of that trailer. So, we



▲ Daniel Bearden’s only employee is his apprentice, Cody Letner, right. The two are posed here with the company’s Ford 2020 sprinter van and a Ditch Witch C12X walk-behind trencher.

have to be a little more mindful of what tools we have on it.”

Bearden Plumbing Solutions is growing steadily, but at a desired “snail’s pace” because “slow growth has been good to us,” Bearden says. “I am not going to let just anyone jump in my truck and represent me. We are going to continue this way. We could grow faster and send out three or four trucks on service calls, but if employees don’t fit our ethical, moral and professional standards, that will hurt us in the long run. This works for me.”

The community of plumbers in the rural counties served by Bearden Plumbing is unlike in Atlanta, where “dog eat dog” is the prevailing attitude, according to Bearden. “We help out each other when we need to. There’s enough work in the area. If I can help them and they can help us, it’s a win for us and the community.”

Adds Bearden, “My biggest competitor is myself. If I focus on what I am doing and set the goals high for myself and my employee, we’re doing what we’re supposed to be doing.”

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# High-Pressure Approach

Texas plumber's powerful water jetters punch above their weight for productivity

By Ken Wysocky



|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>COMPANY</b>  | Black Plumbing, Abilene, Texas  |
| <b>OWNER</b>    | Darrin Black  |
| <b>MACHINES</b> | Custom-built PipeHunter water jetters (a brand owned by Texas Underground)  |
| <b>FUNCTION</b> | Cleaning 2- to 24-inch-diameter sewer lines   |
| <b>FEATURES</b> | Giant triplex plunger water pumps (10 gpm at 4,000 psi), 300- or 500-gallon water tanks; boilers made by either Pressure-Pro or Pressure Systems Innovations; heavy-duty, single- or tandem-axle trailers; swiveling hose reel that holds 600 feet of 3/8-inch-diameter hose; reel-mounted controls; diesel engines made by either Caterpillar or Perkins Engines |
| <b>WEBSITE</b>  | <a href="http://www.blackplumbing.com">www.blackplumbing.com</a>  |

**A**bout six years ago, a custom-built PipeHunter trailer-mounted water jetter with hot-water capability vividly demonstrated why Black Plumbing in Abilene, Texas, now owns five of the powerful machines.

In one instance, the company was called out to a local U.S. Air Force base to locate a clog in an 8-inch-diameter sewer line. A combination sewer vacuum truck had been trying unsuccessfully to clear the line for 24 hours, explains Darrin Black, the owner of the company.

“They were fixing to dig up the line to get access to the clog, so we cameraed the line to locate the clog,” Black says. “My son, Chris, had the PipeHunter trailer jetter hitched to his truck, so he asked if he could give it a go — said he’d do it for free.

“The guy looked at the big vac truck and then at the little trailer jetter and laughed, then said no,” he continues. “But Chris persisted and, finally, was allowed to give it a shot. And he had it flowing in 10 minutes.”

A similar situation occurred the next day, when Chris saw an Abilene municipal vac truck trying to clear an 8-inch sewer line. He stopped and learned the crew had been working on the clog for eight hours, Black says.

“He offered to help and unstopped the line in 10 minutes,” he says. “PipeHunter (a brand owned by Texas Underground) makes a very effective machine.”

## HIGH PRESSURE, LOW FLOW

The company’s PipeHunter jetters features a potent one-two punch: a low-volume, high-pressure water pump (up to 10 gpm at 4,000 psi), made by Giant Pumps, and heated water provided by either Pressure-Pro hot-water generators or boilers made by Pressure Systems Innovations.

The high-pressure, low-flow combination enables technicians to pierce clogs faster without flooding, say, a restaurant kitchen while they’re working. And the hot water cleans pipes much more effectively than cold water, especially lines clogged with grease, Black says.

Furthermore, the hot-water capability is a great differentiator in the drain cleaning market. “You always want to occupy some sort of niche in your market,” he explains. “In this case, it’s the hot water, which melts grease and does a much more thorough job of cleaning drainlines. It’s a great selling point.

“If you leave grease behind after cleaning a line, it gives the new grease coming down the line something to attach to,” he adds. “So, thorough cleaning is really important and these machines offer a much better cleaning solution.”

Crews at Black Plumbing also use the jetters to clean lines in preparation for pipe lining, Black points out.





▲ Black Plumbing technician Layne Constance uses the PipeHunter trailer jetter mounted on the back of one of the company's service vehicles. The company also wraps his vehicles in camouflage to differentiate from competitors. (Photograph courtesy Black Plumbing)

## CUSTOM DESIGN

Along with Giant triplex plunger pumps, the custom-designed PipeHunter jettters also feature 300- or 500-gallon water tanks; heavy-duty, single- or tandem-axle trailers; a hose reel that rotates more than 180 degrees and holds up to 600 feet of 3/8-inch-diameter hose; reel-mounted controls; and diesel engines made by either Caterpillar or Perkins Engines.

Furthermore, Black says his company uses hoses manufactured by Piranha Hose Products to handle the high temperatures.

"We sat down with their engineers and customized the jettters' design," he says. "They were open to what we needed, not just what they wanted to sell us. We wanted more piercing power than just a deluge of water. A typical jetter with 2,000 psi and flow of 24 gpm just doesn't work for our applications."

Black bought his first PipeHunter jetter in 2014 and purchased four more since then; one is skid-mounted on a Dodge 3500 dually pickup truck. The jettters are used to clean sewer lines for a variety of customers, both commercial and residential; commercial customers include apartment complexes, restaurants and malls. Some clients include facilities with massive amounts of wastewater infrastructure, such as three local universities and two Air Force bases, Black says.

Black praises the machines' durability and reliability, which are critical to providing great customer service.

"It gives us peace of mind when we know we won't have issues out in the field," he says. "And when machines like this stand the test of time, you get a bigger return on your investment."

"It gives us peace of mind when we know we won't have issues out in the field. And when machines like this stand the test of time, you get a bigger return on your investment."

*Darrin Black*

## TECHNOLOGY-MINDED

Established in 1994, Black Plumbing offers a wide range of services, including service and repair work, pipe bursting, trenching and pipeline inspections. It runs 33 service vehicles, employs 70 people and serves Abilene and a surrounding 32-county area.

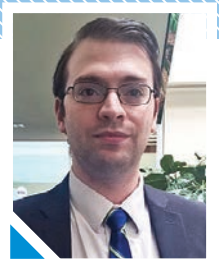
The company has built a reputation for emphasizing investments in technology, as evidenced by the five PipeHunter jettters, which cost roughly \$55,000 to \$60,000 each. Black believes the more services a contractor can offer, the better.

"My philosophy is that if you don't offer that one service that a certain customer might need, you won't get your foot in the door — they'll just call someone else," he continues. "And if you don't offer all those services, eventually someone else will. So why shouldn't it be us?"

"Technology has opened so many doors for us," he adds. "If you don't keep up with technology and trends, you're not providing the best service for your customers."

As for a return on investment, the PipeHunter jettters pay their own freight. And while it initially took technicians a while to warm up to using them, all five machines now are used almost every day, Black says.

"Our techs have grown to love them," he notes. "If I said we were going to sell them all, I'd probably have a mass mutiny on my hands." 📌



Jonathan Simon

# Five Things to Know When Handling Plastic Pipe

From knowing water compatibility to how temperature, pressure and velocity react to different plastic piping systems will ensure a successful install *By Jonathan Simon*

**P**lastic piping systems use many different materials, and those differences can impact the installation, performance and longevity of the system. Here are some do's and don'ts to keep top of mind when selecting and working with plastic piping systems.

## **DON'T: Take water compatibility for granted**

The disinfectants used to treat water can be incompatible with some types of plastic piping. When working with PEX, plumbers should be aware certain conditions can increase the risk of degradation explained in the Plastics Pipe Institute's Technical Note (TN) 53.

Just like copper corrodes with dissimilar metals, both CPVC and PEX have chemical compatibility issues that should be considered during installation to prevent premature failure.

PEX is vulnerable to chlorine degradation, so antioxidants are added during the manufacturing process to counter the effects of chlorine on the pipe. TN-53 discusses three conditions that can accelerate the degradation. Two of these — temperatures above 140 degrees F and pressures above 80 psig — are well known and understood, but the third, ORP above 825 mV, is not.

Oxidation reduction potential is, among other things, a measure of water's ability to break down contaminants. In residential water systems, water disinfection practices increase the ORP to ensure clean, safe drinking water.

When PEX standards were first published over 20 years ago, an ORP above 825 mV was assumed to be rare; but new studies suggest it is more common, particularly with

modern water treatment methods such as chlorine dioxide. Plumbers using PEX should research local water conditions to determine whether there is risk that PEX pipes will be carrying water with an ORP above the threshold. Note that ORP can change over time and from point to point in the system — presenting a challenge to ensuring compatibility.

To make your decision easier and provide peace of mind when it comes to water compatibility, consider an alternative to PEX. CPVC is a chlorinated compound that is inherently immune to degradation from chlorine-based water treatment. With CPVC, there are no water compatibility issues; you can install CPVC regardless of local water conditions.

## **DO: Double check chemical compatibility**

Just like copper corrodes with dissimilar metals, both CPVC and PEX have chemical compatibility issues that should be considered during installation to prevent premature failure.

While CPVC is compatible with chlorine, there are other materials that can cause pipe damage. Because CPVC has been used in residential plumbing for more than 60 years, these issues have been well researched. Manufacturers, such as Lubrizol Advanced Materials, operate compatibility programs to help plumbers identify both compatible and incompatible building products. Contractors should reference their specific manufacturer's compatibility guide(s) prior to selecting ancillary materials.

PEX pipe compatibility issues relate to the antioxidants used to protect the material from chlorine. When some materials touch the PEX pipe, the chlorine-inhibiting antioxidants can leach from the PEX pipe to the other material, leaving the pipe with fewer antioxidants to deal with the chlorine in the water. While there are no specific lists of incompatible building products for PEX, the manufacturers typically advise against using adhesive

▶ A plumber uses CPVC pipe during a residential plumbing installation. Plastic piping systems can use many different materials, which can impact the installation, performance and longevity of the system. (Photo courtesy Lubrizol Advanced Materials Inc.)



tape, organic chemicals, strong acids or bases, and other detrimental materials.

Plastic PEX fittings are made from other materials — typically polysulfone (PSU) or polyphenylsulfone (PPSU). Both of these materials are extremely incompatible with acetone, which is commonly found in PVC cements and primers. Special care should be taken to ensure drips of cement or primer do not contact plastic PEX fittings.

### **DO: Consider velocity and pressure effects on pipe sizing**

All PEX fittings are inserted into the pipe, reducing the internal diameter of the pipe at each fitting. This is true even with expansion fittings. This restriction can drain 2-3 psi of water pressure for each ½-inch, 90-degree elbow. This pressure loss gets more pronounced at small diameters and with higher water velocities.

Additionally, in PEX hot water recirculating systems, the maximum water velocity as prescribed by multiple manufacturers (and some codes) is 2 fps due to concerns over accelerated chlorine degradation. Because of these factors, a PEX system will likely need to be upsized in order to ensure adequate water pressure and volume, while staying within the maximum velocity limit.

CPVC uses solvent welded socket fittings that go around the outside of the pipe. As a result, CPVC systems can be sized the same as copper and deliver similar flow rates and water pressure at fixtures.

### **DON'T: Exceed temperature and pressure specifications**

Most plumbers are familiar with the concept of temperature and pressure ratings — the code requires that all products be rated for at least 100 psi at 180 degrees F and both PEX and CPVC meet that requirement for burst strength. However, at lower temperatures a difference does emerge.

The room temperature burst pressure rating of PEX is 160 psi, while that figure for CPVC is 2.5 times higher at 400 psi. CPVC systems de-rate faster than PEX as temperatures increase but remains at least double the pressure rating of PEX up to 120 degrees F and retains a pressure rating advantage all the way up to the code requirement.

Because CPVC is immune to chlorine degradation, only the burst temperature and pressure ratings apply to CPVC systems. However, for PEX systems the burst temperature and pressure rating are only half of the issue. When used in chlorinated water, the limits of 140 degrees F and 80 psi apply independently — meaning that either temperature or pressure above the limit can each increase the risk of chlorine degradation in PEX pipes.

### **DO: Follow manufacturer installation recommendations**

CPVC and PEX use different installation processes and tools, but there are also differences between manufacturers of the same material. Familiarize yourself with the specific instructions from the manufacturer and never assume processes and tools are the same among manufacturers of the same material. Some manufacturers also provide training resources, such as online webinars and field support, that can be valuable refreshers.

Having success with any plumbing material requires paying attention to material compatibility, sizing and recommended installation practices. Plastic materials are no exception. When these considerations are properly taken into account, plastic plumbing systems can deliver excellent performance and reliability. **P**

*Jonathan Simon is the North American residential plumbing manager for Lubrizol Advanced Materials Inc., the parent company for FlowGuard Gold Pipe and Fittings. For 60 years, FlowGuard Gold Pipe and Fittings has provided reliable hot and cold water plumbing systems to residential and commercial buildings. For more information, visit [www.flowguardgold.com](http://www.flowguardgold.com).*



Jeff Haden

# Not Focusing on Change

Follow these commonsense tips to network, grow and innovate through your plumbing business

By Jeff Haden

**J**eff Bezos founded Amazon in 1994. Today he's one of the richest people in the world. But while Amazon is undeniably a tech company, the business was built on this old-school premise: Focus on the things that don't change.

The premise, while simple, is also easy to forget when innovation seems to be the secret of massive success. Catching the next wave, predicting the next trend, disrupting an industry or hacking your way to near-immediate success, sparking change — that's what works. But it's hard to be innovative. It's hard to be truly disruptive. Knowing what will change — that's incredibly difficult.

Bezos doesn't worry about what will change. He focuses on what won't change. Bezos built Amazon around things he knew would be stable over time, investing heavily in ensuring that Amazon would provide those things.

Here's Bezos:

*I very frequently get the question: "What's going to change in the next 10 years?" And that is a very interesting question; it's a very common one. I almost never get the question: "What's not going to change in the next 10 years?" And I submit to you the second question is actually the more important of the two — because you can build a business strategy around the things that are stable in time. ... (I)n our retail business, we know that customers want low prices, and I know that's going to be true 10 years from now. They want fast delivery; they want vast selection.*

*It's impossible to imagine a future 10 years from now where a customer comes up and says, "Jeff, I love Amazon; I just wish the prices were a little higher." "I love Amazon; I just wish you'd deliver a little more slowly." Impossible.*

*And so the effort we put into those things, spinning those things up, we know the energy we put into it today will still be paying off dividends for our customers 10 years from now. When you have something that you know is true, even over the long term, you can afford to put a lot of energy into it.*

Focusing on things that won't change does not guarantee success — but it provides as close a foundation for success as you will find. Whether you run a wastewater business or work for one as a driver or technician, here are a few timeless principles that consistently provide professional and personal success:

## Focus on collecting knowledge ...

Competing is a fact of professional life: with other businesses, other products, other people. It's not a zero-sum game, but it is a game we all try to win. Smart people win a lot. Smarter people win even more often. Continually striving to gain more experience and more knowledge is the second-best way to succeed.

## ... But always focus more on collecting knowledgeable people.

You can't know everything. But you can know enough smart people that together you know almost everything. And, together, do almost anything. Work hard on getting smarter. Work harder on getting smart people on your side. How?

## Always give before receiving.

The goal of networking is to connect with people who can provide a referral, help make a sale, share important information, serve as a mentor, etc. When we network, we want something. But, especially at first, never ask for

Continued ▶

You can't know everything. But you can know enough smart people that together you know almost everything. And, together, do almost anything.

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### **Always look past the messenger and focus on the message.**

When people speak from a position of power or authority or fame, it's tempting to place greater emphasis on their input, advice, and ideas. Warren Buffett? Yep, you have to listen to him. Sheryl Sandberg? Yes. Richard Branson? Absolutely.

That approach works to a point, but only to a point. Really smart people strip away all the framing that comes with the source — both positive and negative — and evaluate information, advice or input solely on its merits. When Branson says, "Screw it; just do it and get on with it," it's powerful. If the guy who delivers your lunch says it, it should be just as powerful.

Never discount the message because you discount the messenger. Good advice is good advice, regardless of the source.

### **Always work on "next."**

It's impossible to predict what will work, much less how well it will work. Some products stick, for a while. Some services flourish, and then don't. Some ventures take off, and then flame out. Some careers take off, and then stagnate. No matter how successful you are today, always have a "next" in your pipeline.

If somehow your current products or services or ventures continue to thrive, great: You will have created a bigger line of products and services and ventures. That's how successful people weather the storm when times are tough and become even more successful when business is booming.

### **Always take responsibility.**

If you're always right, you never grow. One of the best things you can do is to be wrong, because when you make a mistake, you are given the chance to learn. (Don't worry. Every successful person has failed numerous times. Most have failed more than you. That's why they're successful today.) Own every mistake, every miscue and every failure.

Say you made a mistake. Then commit to making sure that next time things will turn out very differently.

### **Always turn ideas into actions.**

The word *idea* should be a verb, not a noun, because no idea is real until you turn that inspiration into action. Ideas without action aren't ideas. They're regrets. Every day we let hesitation and uncertainty stop us from acting on our ideas. Fear of the unknown and fear of failure are what stop me, and may be what stops you, too.

Think about a few of the ideas you've had, whether for a new business, a new career or even just a part-time job. Looking back, many of your ideas would have turned out well, especially if you had given them your best effort. Trust your analysis, your judgment and your instincts. Trust your willingness to work through challenges and roadblocks. 📧

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*Jeff Haden is a contributing editor for Inc.com and a LinkedIn Influencer. He is the author of The Motivation Myth: How High Achievers Really Set Themselves Up to Win.*

**"We work off of the three-win rule,**

where the company, the employee and the customer all have to win. If just one loses, everyone loses.

We live off this. If a customer is upset, for example, then the employee didn't make sure the customer won.

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**Sometimes we even give customers their money back."**

**Richard Hart**  
Harts Services  
Tacoma, Washington

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Randy Lorge

# Simply Circuit Venting

Knowing the code for circuit vents can be tricky with the different variations, but needs to be known and followed

By Randy Lorge

**S**ometimes things have different definitions. Take, for example, circuit venting.

Take your pick:

- Circuit vent. The vent that connects to a horizontal drainage branch and vents two traps to a maximum of eight traps connected into a battery of fixtures.
- Circuit vent means a method of venting two to eight traps or trapped fixtures without providing an individual vent for each trap or fixture.
- Circuit vent. A vent that connects to a horizontal drainage branch and vents two traps to not more than eight traps or trapped fixtures connected into a battery.
- Vent, circuit: The vent for a group of battery-vented fixtures that is connected to their horizontal drain branch between the first two upstream fixtures and extends to a vent stack or other vertical vent.

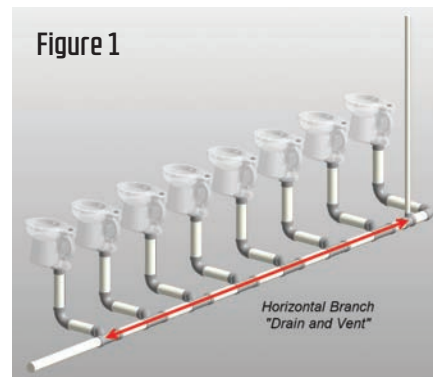
No matter which code you use to define it, circuit venting is a very useful system, which uses one vent to vent up to as many as eight plumbing fixtures. Some codes will allow the fixtures to be both wall outlet and floor outlet fixtures while others limit the system to floor outlet fixtures only.

The circuit vent dates back to the early 1920s and as many things do, has evolved over the years and been adjusted and slightly tweaked to meet the times and more often than not, the interpretation of code officials. Regardless, it still stands as a very functional venting system almost 100 years later!

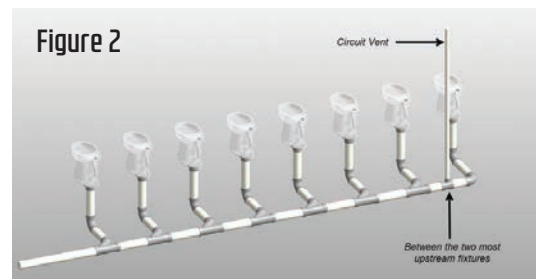
You should always refer to the specific code you are using in your jurisdiction, but the following is an overview of the circuit vent system and the proper installation and sizing of it.

The circuit vent can be used to vent at least two but not more than eight fixtures. Each trap arm shall connect horizontally to the branch being circuit vented. The

horizontal branch to which the fixtures connect is considered the drain and the vent from the most downstream trap arm connection to the most upstream trap arm connection as illustrated below (see Figure 1 below).



The circuit vent is required to connect between the two most upstream fixtures. While there are variations of what is considered “between” the two most upstream fixtures based on the code being used, the illustration below (see Figure 2 below) shows a widely accepted practice.



Some codes allow multiple circuit-vented systems to be interconnected provided of course that the systems are sized appropriately. (See Figure 3 next page)



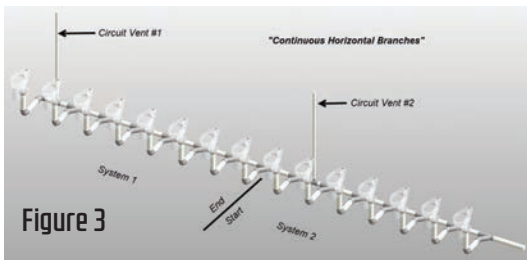


Figure 3

A relief vent is typically required when the circuit-vented, horizontal branch drain receives the discharge of four or more water closets and connects to a drain stack which receives the discharge of soil or waste from upper horizontal branches. The relief vent is required to connect downstream of the most downstream fixture being circuit vented and the connection to the drain stack. (See Figure 4 below)

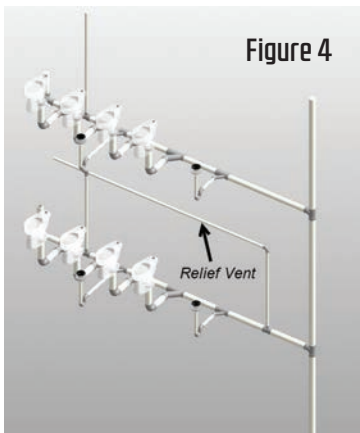


Figure 4

The vented section of the horizontal branch is required to be uniformly sloped. It is also required to be sized for the total discharge into the branch and is not permitted to diminish in size from the circuit vent connection to the most downstream fixture being circuit vented. (See Figure 5 below)

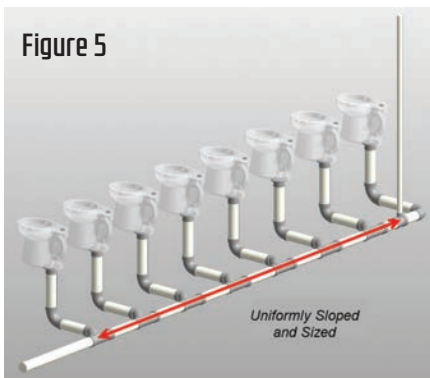


Figure 5

If you don't agree with the code, then you need to get involved with the code change process. You need to do the research and justify why the code should be changed.

Most codes allow the discharge of additional fixtures "into" the circuit-vented, horizontal branch drain provided those fixtures are individually or common vented with a drainage fixture unit (dfu) of one or less. (See Figure 6 below)

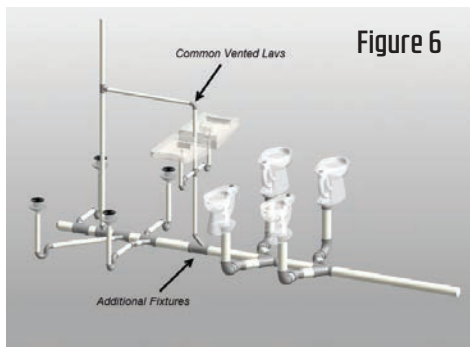


Figure 6

As I mentioned earlier, depending on which code is being used, the circuit and the relief vent are allowed to be wet. Again, the fixtures discharging in these vents are restricted to one dfu or less fixtures as can be seen in the next figure. (See Figure 7 below)

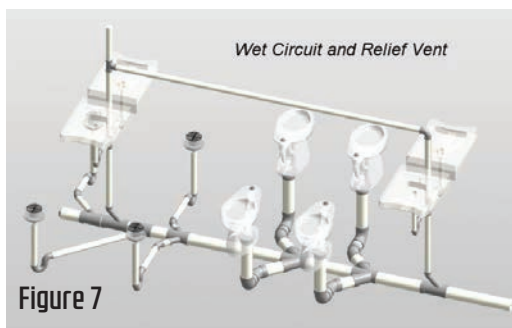


Figure 7

The circuit vent can be installed in both public and nonpublic applications. Always refer to the specific code you are using and be sure to install clean-outs where required.

I think I have mentioned it before, but I believe it's worth saying it again. Plumbing codes are developed to ensure that plumbing is installed in a manner that will

protect the health and safety of the public. No matter where you live or the code you follow, that fundamental principle is the most important.

As a plumber, it falls upon you and I to follow the code. If you don't agree with the code, then you need to get involved with the code change process. You need to do the research and justify why the code should be changed. Either follow the code the way it is written or find a way to help make it better, take your pick. **PI**

*Randy Lorge is a third-generation plumber and the director of workforce training and development for the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). Lorge is also a member of the planning team for the International Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Foundation (IWSH). This 501(c) (3) foundation has completed water and sanitation projects for those less fortunate in India, South Africa, Indonesia and, more recent, the United States. He enjoys time with his family and spending as much time as possible in his deer stand. To contact Lorge, email editor@plumbermag.com.*

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## Makita breaks ground on major expansion

Makita U.S.A. launched construction of a new 600,000-square-foot facility northeast of Atlanta in Hall County, Georgia. The new facility will be constructed on 80 acres of land and is part of Makita's planned future development to address continuing growth in the United States. The new facility will serve as a distribution center, and will also include a sales and training center, customer service resources, and a factory service center. The location has adjacent space for future expansion up to 800,000 square feet.

## Milwaukee Tool to expand footprint in Mississippi

Milwaukee Tool announced it's building a new manufacturing facility in Grenada, Mississippi. Anticipated to open in late 2022, the new facility will accommodate increased capacity for the company's growing power tool accessories and power tool business. With this facility, Milwaukee has committed to creating 1,200 jobs in the region.

## ServiceTitan announces \$500M investment

ServiceTitan announced a \$500 million round at an \$8.3 billion valuation. The capital raised will be used to fuel growth as the company continues to invest in customer experience, product development and hiring talent around the globe. The company also announced that it has surpassed \$250 million in annual recurring revenue, having grown more than 50% over the past 12 months. The company serves more than 7,500 contracting businesses that collectively employ more than 100,000 technicians and perform more than \$20 billion worth of annual transactions across various home and commercial service verticals, including plumbing, air conditioning, electrical and more.

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## RectorSeal offers live, distance-training classes

RectorSeal has released a monthly, live, distance-training schedule for distributors and contractors in the professional trades. The classes offer the opportunity for distributors and contractors to participate in web-based training classes featuring live, interactive training environments. Professional, NATE-certified trainers lead the scheduled classes to deliver an experience that equals a traditional on-site training class. Registration for all live-distance training classes is available on the RectorSeal website.

## Franklin Electric acquires water treatment company

Franklin Electric announced it has acquired Puronics, and its wholly owned subsidiaries, headquartered in Livermore, California, in an all-cash transaction. Puronics is a residential and commercial water treatment products and services provider operating four company-owned service centers and serving approximately 133 independent water quality dealers with approximately 260 locations in 31 states.


## Stellar Brands named new umbrella company

Stellar Brands was named a new umbrella company uniting Restoration 1, bluefrog Plumbing + Drain and future acquisitions under one multibranded service organization. Gary Findley will serve as CEO of Stellar Brands and has also been named operating partner of franchising/home services by MPK Equity Partners, which acquired Restoration 1 and bluefrog Plumbing + Drain in April 2020.

## A.O. Smith receives Energy Star award

A. O. Smith announced it received a 2021 Energy Star Sustained Excellence Award, a top Energy Star honor. The recognition marks the third consecutive year that A. O. Smith received an Energy Star Partner of the Year award for its commitment to providing professionals and homeowners with energy efficient solutions.

## Wieser Concrete acquires Minnesota Precast Industries

Wieser Concrete acquired Minnesota Precast Industries, based in Rosemount, Minnesota. The experienced staff will remain at the Rosemount plant, joined by Kenny from Wieser's Maiden Rock plant to assist in production and deliveries. 

*Send us your plumbing industry news, Email personnel, business acquisitions and related plumbing news, photos and videos to [editor@plumbermag.com](mailto:editor@plumbermag.com).*

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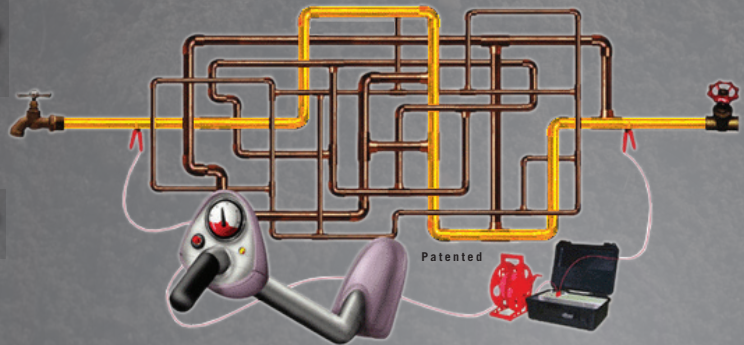
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# Residential Plumbing, Water Quality and Conditioning

By Craig Mandli

## Access Panel

### Oatey 14-by-14-inch Plastic Access Panel

Oatey 14-by-14-inch Plastic Access Panels are used to allow access to plumbing, electrical wiring, security systems, telephone, computer cables and sprinkler systems behind walls and ceilings. The panels are constructed of high-impact ABS, have a flush or surface-mounted frame and install easily between wall studs or ceiling joists. The white panel can be painted to match the decor. **800-203-1155; www.oatey.com**



## Bathtubs

### BainUltra BeOne

BeOne freestanding tubs from BainUltra translates the traditional Japanese-style bath into modern times. It is a tub built especially for one, with a compact design that requires little floor space, yet its deep bathing well with built-in seat allows a single bather to rest comfortably upright for a satisfying soak. The tub is offered as a soaker or with the brand's Thermomasseur technology with up to 40 air jets and Geysair hot air system for a hydrothermo massage. Other therapy options include WarmTouchShell, which radiates heat from three heating zones within the tub's shell. The tub is crafted of 100% pure acrylic for durability and a long-lasting beauty that is easy to clean and maintain. It measures 46 by 39 by 30 inches, and is available in a glossy white, with options for a dramatic black and white finish or the brand's Ultravelour matte finish. **800-463-2187; www.bainultra.com**



### MTI Baths Metro Sculpted Finish

Metro Sculpted Finish tubs from MTI Baths have a freestanding design that captures the elegance of minimalist design with crisp rectangular lines and a soothing absence of ornamentation. They are available in three sizes with lengths of either 60, 66 or 72 inches to best fit the available space. The tub is notable for its 11-inch larger extended deck on one side that provides a safe and convenient ledge for entering or exiting the bath. A solution for universal design applications, and it can also be used for mounting faucetry. Available as a soaker, air bath, with microbubbles or as a combination of the two, the tubs provide a comfortable bathing experience with a sloped backrest and ergonomic design for a blissfully relaxing soak. **800-783-8827; www.mtibaths.com**



## Coating/Lining/Sealant

### Pipe Lining Supply Quik-Coating System

The Quik-Coating System from Pipe Lining Supply applies resin to the cleaned surface to prevent future scale buildup inside the pipe. In addition to protecting the pipe from accumulating more scale, the system can address cracks and leaks, creating a new inner surface. The system also provides contractors with a unique skill that sets them apart from their competition and generates a new source of revenue. The system partners greatly with contractors using CIPP lining products by sealing the ends of the liner, as well as the branch lines where openings have been cut out. **888-354-6464; www.pipeliningssupply.com**



## Controls/Control Panel

### FloLogic System

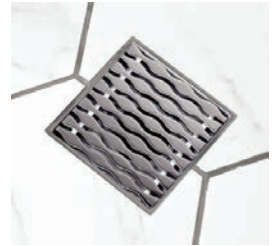
Demand for flow-based leak detection with automatic shutoff continues to increase, driven by insurance requirements and incentives. The **FloLogic System** is a commercial-grade plumbing leak detection, automatic shutoff device that protects homes and businesses from plumbing supply leak damage. It works in virtually all homes and businesses with 3/4- to 2-inch water service, offering real-time leak detection and flow notification abilities beginning at 1/2 ounce of water flow per minute, thanks to its EverWatch leak-sensing technology. When a leak is detected, the water is shut off automatically and the users receive an alert through a smartphone app. The FloLogic CONNECT module has a thermometer, allowing low room temperature alerts and automatic water shutoffs. All systems are equipped with battery backup for continued protection during outages. **877-356-5644; www.flologic.com**



highly customizable solutions for any environment in which sanitation, durability and accessibility are critical. Hundreds of thousands of configurations are available. **920-261-4112; www.kuselequipment.com**

### QuickDrain USA SquareDrain

**QuickDrain USA's SquareDrain** point drain is an extension of the QuickDrain total shower solution. It combines fashion and function, helping homeowners, designers and installers create spa-like bathroom experiences with ease. The point drain system offers versatility and flexibility in design for both curbed and curbless applications, making it a suitable choice for residential and hospitality. Features include a universal-flange adaptor, making it job site-ready for new and retrofit applications like tub-to-shower conversions. It can be installed in two hours and includes an integrated quarter test plug, eliminating the need for extra testing tools and costs. Once installed, the drain system allows for easy maintenance with a debris basket and cover key included. **866-998-6685; www.quickdrainusa.com**



## Drains



### Infinity Drain Next Day Custom Linear Drains

**Next Day Custom Linear Drains** from Infinity Drain make perfect linear drain wall-to-wall installation a reality – without the wait. They are available in lengths up to 72 inches in two finishes, three grate styles and for all installation waterproofing methods. **516-767-6786; www.infinitydrain.com**

### Kusel Equipment KE Series

**KE Series** floor drains from **Kusel Equipment** provide an easy way to eliminate wastewater drainage problems. The standard 12-inch area drain is NSF certified and suitable for most common applications in heavy-traffic areas where a sanitary, durable solution is needed for debris content removal. The series also features



## Fixtures

### AD Waters OLI

Distributed by **AD Waters**, the **OLI** in-wall toilet carrier, offered for both floor-mounted and wall-hung toilets, is a suitable solution for sanity systems. Water-saving and UPC certified, they come with a chrome flush plate. Equipped with a protective box offering more depth, they allow for thicker wall finishing or remodeling without removing existent finishing. In addition, a protective plate is included which keeps condensation away from the flush plate. The carrier features a 1 9/16-inch continuous length front-to-back without product modification, allowing it to evacuate at an angle and a longer pipe length at 9 13/16 inches. The height can be easily adjusted between 0 and 5.9 inches and provides easy cleaning access around and beneath the toilet area. Ideal for small spaces, it provides a stud wall installation. **800-867-8484; www.alt-aqua.com**



### ENPRESS PIONEER System

The **PIONEER System** from ENPRESS was developed as an environmentally conscious green product, wasting no water during backwash or regeneration of chemicals. It also successfully removes lead, cyst and poisonous chemicals PFOA/PFOS, and is installed where the waterline enters the customer's home, business or restaurant. It is easy to install and can deliver peace of mind to customers. **440-510-0108; www.enpress.com**



### Liberty Pumps 406 Series Drain Pump

The **Liberty Pumps 406 Series Drain Pump** provides the freedom to install fixtures where gravity drainlines are not available. For gray wastewater applications, it is suitable for basement bathrooms, laundry tray sinks, bar sinks, washing machines and other basement remodeling projects. The system arrives fully assembled and ready to install. It allows installation of a sink, washing machine, shower or other gray wastewater fixture in residential and light commercial applications, where the water needs to be pumped to an existing sewer line. It features quiet automatic operation, and at only 10 inches tall (from the base to the top inlet flange), its short profile is ideal for compact areas. Its float switch can be accessed and serviced without disconnecting piping, and its air-cooled motor includes thermal-overload protection for safety. **800-543-2550; www.libertypumps.com**



### Saniflo Saniswift Pro

Designed to meet larger commercial and conventional residential drainage applications, the **Saniswift Pro** from Saniflo can handle gray water from up to three fixtures: sink, shower, dishwasher, or washing machine (via a laundry sink). The pump is encased in a robust, yet stylish, cube-shaped exterior that can be easily installed in hard-to-reach



spaces, such as beneath a bathroom or kitchen sink. It is made of rugged, high-density polyethylene to resist corrosion from harsh chemicals. It stores no waste but uses a short-cycle motor to begin drainage immediately, while also keeping the basin empty during operation. To accommodate various retrofit applications, it will pump drainage 14 vertical feet and 140 horizontal feet, or a lesser combination of these two distances. **800-571-8191; www.saniflo.com**

## Pump Parts/Components

### AquaMotion AMH2K-R

**AMH2K-R** hot water recirculation systems from AquaMotion can help save cooled water from being dumped down the drain while waiting for hot water. Government studies estimate the average waste to be 12,000 gallons per year per household with four taps. It can add up to 15,000 gallons for a large home with more than five faucets in use. For dedicated return-line systems, a stainless pump offers a 21-foot head at 16 gpm, Aquastat, timer, check valve and 10-foot line cord installs into the return line at the heater. This kit can work for large tanks and tankless systems and works for 600 feet of total pipe length. It meets CA title 24. On-Demand can be added for extra savings. **401-785-3000; www.aquamotionhvac.com**



### Leonard Valve Model 170D-LF

The **Model 170D-LF** from Leonard Valve is a four-port POU valve designed with convenience in mind. The installing contractor can feed the faucet fixture with not only tempered water at ideal temperatures for hand-wash applications, but also cold water from the integral bypass feature which is incorporated into the design. For those installers who do not want the cold-water bypass, every valve is equipped with a bypass cap for easy shutoff capability. It comes with a tamper-resistant temperature locknut and is ASSE 1070 certified. **800-222-1208; www.leonardvalve.com**





## PRIER Products P-6IV

The P-6IV irrigation valve from **PRIER Products** comes with a built-in elbow that swivels to allow for easy installation and reduced cost for extra parts. It's also designed with the homeowner and contractor in mind that allows servicing from the exterior of the structure, rather than entering the residence. It can be accessed from the outside, which means the homeowner doesn't need to be home or provide access to the contractor for annual servicing. The heavy-patterned cast brass hydrant with a nickel-plated body looks attractive, resists corrosion and should last the life of the plumbing system when installed correctly. The valve also offers a triple-seal positive shutoff system. It is available in 12 lengths to suit a wide range of installation needs. **800-362-9055; www.prier.com**



## Wal-Rich Termination Screens

High-efficiency furnaces, boilers and water heaters use sidewall vents for “breathing” in outside air for fuel combustion, and “exhaling” cooled exhaust gases nearly depleted of heat. Because high-efficiency furnaces use sidewall vents, they are more susceptible to airflow blockages. The area around the sidewall vents should be clear of all airflow blockages for a minimum two feet in all directions. When air intake is blocked or hindered, fuel combustion suffers, and the furnace locks out. Care must also be taken to prevent bees, rodents, small animals and even leaves or debris from entering the pipe. That is what **Termination Screens** from **Wal-Rich** do, in a simple, easy-to-install design, fitting inside the hub of a pipe fitting. They are a round plastic frame (PVC, polypropylene, Schedule 80 CPVC), with a 304 stainless steel mesh. An important design feature is the channel on the bottom edge, which allows condensate to drain and prevents ice dams. **800-221-1157; www.wal-rich.com**



## Viega ProPress Automatic Recirculation Balancing Valve

Viega's ProPress Automatic Recirculation Balancing Valve ensures balanced domestic water recirculation by changing with varying conditions. It keeps water temperatures more uniform by adjusting flow with

changes in temperature. The results are faster hot water delivery, minimized waste energy and water and less stagnation and chance of contamination. Temperature can be set once and be maintained automatically. Settings can be changed easily, if needed. It can be installed on risers or branches. Remote monitoring is possible with a temperature sensor. An optional thermometer provides visual indication of valve setting. Threaded ends allow use with ProPress or PureFlow fittings systems. It includes a bypass for thermal disinfection. **800-976-9819; www.viega.us**

## Showers

### AQUABRASS INABOX

**INABOX** from **AQUABRASS** provides a complete, versatile and fully certified contemporary thermostatic shower system in one compact designed box, easy to carry onto any job site. It is available in three stock finishes — electro black, polished chrome and brushed nickel – and in four types of shower systems. The trim features an easy clip-on fastening system and a hidden 1 3/8-inch adjustment to fit any wall thickness, providing a quick and efficient access to the rough-in. It accommodates horizontal or vertical rough-in and trim installations. It also includes a choice of ceiling or wall arms, as well as two different hand-shower supports (rail and hook). The kit includes an oversized rainhead, ergonomic push-button multifunction hand-shower with a choice of three water jets: rain, massage and mist and an Italian-made thermostatic valve. **800-867-8484; www.aquabrax.com**



## Omni Brass Siena Offset Shower Column

The **Siena Offset Shower Column** from **Omni Brass** has a bend at the top to maintain a straight aesthetic when installed, which prevents the hose from dangling in front of the existing shower valve. The straight shower column allows the brass holding bracket to travel up-down about 30 inches. The diverter valve is closer to the floor for easy access and operation, especially for children and seniors. The column is oversized, longer and straighter to enhance its strength and style. It offers a comfortable blend of hot and cold water from the showerhead, and full access from a multifunctioning hand-shower wand. **905-760-9909; www.omnibrass.com**



## Outdoor Shower Co. showers

Contractors face the dilemma of finding showers that will endure harsh outdoor environments such as freezing temperatures, salt water, consistent usage, and chlorine and meet plumbing codes. **Outdoor Shower Co.** offers durable, low-maintenance showers in several designs with multiple features and accessories. In addition to the 304 grade stainless steel showers, 316 marine-grade showers were added to the company's selection to provide showers where modern designs and even more durability are preferred. These upright and freestanding showers are easy to install and come with instructions for winterization to prevent freeze damage. **866-746-9371; www.outdoorshowerco.com**

## Sink



## BLANCO VINTERA

The **VINTERA** farmhouse sink collection from **BLANCO** is a clean, contemporary version of the apron-front sink style with versatile installation capabilities. Farmhouse sinks are typically fitted as undermounts, but the unique design of this collection also allows for a seamless flush-mount installation.

This installation option visually showcases a rim of **SILGRANIT** color around the top of the sink and is flush with the countertop. In addition to the flush-mount look, the series is designed to bring further installation benefits, as it fits into a standard base cabinet measuring the same width as the sink. This eliminates the need for custom cabinetry common with farmhouse sinks, making kitchen renovations easier for homeowners, designers and contractors. **888-668-6201; www.blancoamerica.com**

## Sump Pumps

### Ashland Pump sump pumps

**Ashland Pump** offers sump pumps in different options including the **PS** series, **B** series, the **SPV** series and sump basin package systems. They are built with corrosion-resistant anodized aluminum or rugged cast iron construction. All are equipped with permanent split capacitor, continuous duty-rated motors for higher efficiency. They have an upper and lower ball bearing design for longer life and smoother operation. The vortex impellers are made of thermoplastic or cast iron to better handle up to 1/2-inch solids. They have professional, contractor grade vertical or wide-angle piggyback float switches for quick and easy field servicing. Sump basin packages come complete with the sump basin, sump pump, check valve and discharge piping. They are suitable for new or replacement installations. **855-281-6830; www.ashlandpump.com**



### Franklin Electric Little Giant 12E Series



The **Little Giant 12E Series** 1/2 hp effluent pump from **Franklin Electric** is engineered for dewatering, water transfer and septic wastewater removal in the most challenging deep vault effluent applications. A cloverleaf intake allows for higher flow with 3/4-inch diameter solids handling and the rugged cast iron impeller delivering superior clog resistance. Surrounding it all is a heavy-duty epoxy-coated cast iron housing that stands up to the most extreme elements, including cold-weather climates where deep septic wells are common.

and high-head performance is required. Continuous duty-rated, the energy-efficient PSC motor also includes thermal overload protection for reliable performance. It is available in with either a manual (12E-CIM) or automatic (12E-CIA-RF) switch. **800-701-7894; [www.littlegiant.com](http://www.littlegiant.com)**

## Toilets

### Fluidmaster Soft Spa 9500 Bidet

Designed to provide a more hygienic, clean and refreshing solution in the bathroom, the feature-rich **Soft Spa 9500 Bidet** from **Fluidmaster** comes with water temperature and pressure controls, adjustable dryer speeds, an ergonomic, temperature-controlled comfort seat, and features a sleek design that won't shift under your bum. It includes automatic front and rear cleaning cycles with oscillation, water temperature and pressure control, adjustable dryer speeds and temperature control, control via push button at the bidet base or via wireless remote, deodorizer and push-button quick release for easy cleaning, and a night light and soft-close lid for round-the-clock use. It requires an electrical outlet to enable amenities. **949-728-2000; [www.fluidmaster.com](http://www.fluidmaster.com)**



### Gerber Plumbing Fixtures Viper

The plumber-friendly **Viper** collection from **Gerber Plumbing Fixtures** has expanded to include an efficient 0.8 gpf toilet. MaP Premium certified, this product exceeds all WaterSense requirements. It not only saves 33% more water compared to regular high-efficiency toilets, it's 50% better than the national standard 1.6 gpf. It also earned an MaP rating of 800 grams and tested drainline carry of 44 feet. It includes a special trapway design, and Fluidmaster 400A fill valve with set-it-and-forget-it reliability. Available in both 12- and 10-inch rough-in configurations, the ADA-compliant ErgoHeight elongated bowl provides extra comfort and ease-of-use, as well as a standard height round front bowl that is perfect for confined spaces. The large 20 1/2- by 9 3/4-inch footprint is suitable for retrofits. It is available in white with a chrome-plated, top-mount flush actuator. **866-538-5536; [www.gerber-us.com](http://www.gerber-us.com)**



### Niagara Shadow

The **Shadow** line of toilets from **Niagara** is the company's most efficient luxury product category, and a fit for condos, hotels or hospitality. They are available at a higher price point in round, elongated and compact elongated bowls, ADA and standard heights and range between 0.8 and 1.28 gpf. This product line also contains Stealth Technology, flushes up to 1,000g and is WaterSense certified. **888-733-0197; [www.pro.niagaracorp.com](http://www.pro.niagaracorp.com)**



### SIMAS Rimless toilets

Made in Italy for the North American market, **SIMAS** offers a wide selection of products complementing any bathroom space. The rimless technology system is innovative due to the fact that it provides a superior high-performance flushing system available for both wall-mount and floor-mount toilets. This technology offers an all-around cleaner bowl, reduces splashing when flushing, is subject to less bacterial contact and leaves less residues behind. The rimless system can be found in a selection of toilets among the Bormio, Vignoni, Baden Baden, Flow and Arcadia collections. **800-867-8484; [www.simasusa.com](http://www.simasusa.com)**

### TOTO USA Aquia IV Arc WASHLET+ C5 Toilet

**TOTO's Aquia IV Arc** toilet seamlessly connects with its **WASHLET+ C5**, leaving no protruding water or electrical supply connections. It offers a sophisticated transitional design statement with its elegantly flared tank. Its elongated skirted design is aesthetically pleasing and offers easy cleaning by removing the nooks and crannies where dust collects, while its slender tank gives it a heightened sensibility. Its **DYNAMAX TORNADO FLUSH** system features two powerful nozzles that create a centrifugal, cyclonic rinsing action that reduces waste buildup and keeps the bowl cleaner. Using only 1.28 or 1.0 gpf for the full flush and 0.8 gpf for the light, this high-efficiency flushing system is more effective in one flush than most toilets are with multiple flushes. Its modern, seamless concave rim design means that these high-efficiency toilets perform more consistently and are easy to clean. **888-295-8134; [www.totousa.com](http://www.totousa.com)**



**Tools**

**Disston Tools BLU-MOL Xtreme QuickCore Hole Saw System**

Eliminate the wasted time and frustration of removing stubborn cores forever with the award-winning **BLU-MOL Xtreme QuickCore Hole Saw System** from Disston Tools. The QuickCore system provides a substantially faster core ejection versus conventional methods. The mandrel enables the user to quickly change hole saws, fitting all sizes from 3/4 to 6 inches. **800-272-4436; www.quick-core.com**



**Koul Tools EZ-ON Hose Press 409B**

The **EZ-ON Hose Press 409B** from Koul Tools installs 1/4- to 1-inch barbed fittings in a matter of seconds without

heating the hose. It's lead screw system requires only a ratchet or small impact gun to assemble hoses quickly and safely. Simply secure the fitting in the vice, clamp the hose in the traveling carriage, and turn the drive screw system to install the hose. **928-854-6706; www.koultools.com**

**Magliner Powered Stair Climbing Hand Trucks**

**Magliner Powered Stair Climbing Hand Trucks** are perfectly balanced climbing machines with two speed settings and single-step and continuous-step modes. Constructed from lightweight aluminum, these battery-operated stair climbers will assist with safely transporting up to 725 pounds up and down steps. From boilers and large water heaters to water conditioning and HVAC systems, moving heavy, bulky items on stairs has never been easier. Folding handle models allow the operator to adjust the position of the handle to balance the center of gravity of the load, allowing the operator to maintain an upright posture while maneuvering loads. The optional fourth-wheel attachment allows the operator to let the hand truck carry all the weight when moving items long distances on flat, smooth surfaces. **800-624-5463; www.magliner.com**



**Milwaukee Tool M12 FUEL ProPEX Expander**

**Milwaukee Tool** and Uponor have partnered to deliver the **M12 FUEL ProPEX Expander**. Equipped with **RAPID SEAL** heads to seal faster at 45 degrees, the tool is part of a complete solution to provide consistent installations. Providing up to 35% faster connections, it has a **POWERSTATE** brushless motor, delivering sustained peak power even under the toughest conditions, and an extended dual-actuating trigger for better access in tough-to-reach workspaces. The expander comes standard with ProPEX Expander Heads with **RAPID SEAL**, designed to provide faster sealing connections in colder temperatures while maintaining the expected time to insert a fitting. It is equipped with an auto-rotating head for quick, uniform expansions and built-in LED lights allow for convenient operation. **800-729-3878; www.milwaukeetool.com**



**RIDGID Telescoping Basin Wrench**

The **RIDGID Telescoping Basin Wrench** incorporates a built-in, water-resistant LED light to illuminate dark, tight spaces and make undersink applications easier to complete. It's telescoping design, featuring easy pushbutton activation and spring-loaded jaws of forged alloy steel, allows for fast, one-handed ratcheting. The tension plug holds heads in any position up to a 90-degree angle. The Basin Wrench features a large diameter rotating swivel T-Handle for comfortable gripping and easier access to tight spaces. The T-Handle is also removable and includes a 3/8-inch square drive connection to integrate with other drivers. **800-769-7743; www.ridgid.com**

**Walton REPS extractors**

Heavy-duty **Walton REPS** extractors remove broken pipe-fittings quickly and easily, without costly damage to mating fittings. Made of hardened steel, they create a strong, four-point grip without hammering or pounding to pull out broken pipes, studs and screws with ease, then release instantly. They are available as sets or individual pieces for all classes of pipe sizes from 1/8 to 2 inches and stud/screw sizes from 3/8 to 3 1/2 inches. **860-523-5231; www.waltontools.com**



## Tubing/Piping

### Jones Stephens PEXALGAS

The **Jones Stephens PEXAL-GAS** system is an innovative PEX-AL-PEX solution that accelerates and simplifies gas piping installations. It has undergone years of rigorous performance testing and is approved for use with fuel gas (natural gas and LP gas). It's certified to International Fuel & Gas Code, International Residential Code, and Uniform Plumbing Code and it meets ASTM and AS standards. Using press fitting technology, it is designed to save time and money on the job site. With steps as simple as cut it, ream it, push it, press it, the installation is approximately 50% faster than installing CSST. Plus, the coils are up to 50% lighter in material weight and materials savings are up to 60%. **800-355-6637; [www.jonesstephens.com](http://www.jonesstephens.com)**



### Uponor PEX

Pre-insulated **Uponor PEX** is available for both potable-plumbing systems, with Aqua-PEX pipe, or hydronic systems, such as radiant heating or hydronic hot-water heating, with Wirsbo hePEX pipe. The offering includes insulation thicknesses from 1/2 up to 2 inches to meet ASHRAE 90.1-2016 energy code requirements. Plus, the solution helps support LEED and National Green Building Standard practices. It gives builders and homeowners increased confidence and peace of mind because the product resists corrosion, pitting and scale buildup, while also offering superior flexibility for fewer required connections that can lower system performance. And because the solution is available in long, continuous coil lengths, it decreases the instance of job-site waste. **800-321-4739; [www.uponor-usa.com](http://www.uponor-usa.com)**



## Water Heaters

### Bradford White Water Heaters AeroTherm Series Heat Pump Water Heater

The Energy Star-certified **Bradford White AeroTherm Series Heat Pump Water Heater** with 65-gallon capacity includes installation and servicing features valued by plumbing professionals and the energy and cost-saving benefits important to energy-conscious consumers. With top water connections and convenient height and weight, the heater is easy to install and maintain. It has four operating modes (heat pump, hybrid, electric and vacation) plus an integrated smart control panel, making it simple to change the temperature or mode. Standard water and electrical connections, quiet operation and an environmentally friendly profile add to the heater's value. All heaters include Vitraglas lining, an enamel formula that provides superior tank protection from the corrosive effects of hot water. **800-523-2931; [www.bradfordwhite.com](http://www.bradfordwhite.com)**



### Rinnai Hydronic Air Handler

The **Rinnai Hydronic Air Handler** connects seamlessly to select Rinnai tankless water heaters and I-Series Combi Boilers, delivering efficient home heating and simultaneous domestic hot water services through a single, complete system. When integrated with the company's efficient tankless water heaters or boilers, customers can save energy compared to traditional furnaces. This holistic solution is easy to install, which is ideal for both new construction and retrofit applications. Not only is the product integrated in one system, but it is also customizable to fit specific installation needs for maximum efficiency and comfort. Models are available with or without an internal pump for easy connection with tankless water heaters or I-Series Combi Boilers, offering hot water and heat to the home. The air handler can also be configured to work with AHRI-certified cooling solutions, including indoor cooling coils and outdoor condensing systems. **800-621-9419; [www.rinnai.us](http://www.rinnai.us)**



**Stiebel Eltron DHC-E Trend and Plus**

DHC-E Trend and DHC-E Plus electric tankless water heaters from **Stiebel Eltron** feature the company's Direct Coil heating system that includes a self-cleaning element highly resistant to limescale, and capable of delivering fast heat up and ideal response to flow rate and inlet temperature fluctuations. There is no possibility of accidental dry-fire. Both models are available in a range of outputs from 3 to 14.4 kW. The DHC-E Plus also includes Advanced Flow Control that automatically delivers hot water at the set temperature even with a temporary overload. 800-582-8423; [www.stiebel-eltron-usa.com](http://www.stiebel-eltron-usa.com)



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# Residential Plumbing, Water Quality and Conditioning

By Craig Mandli

## Residential filter system addresses numerous issues with local water conditions



**Problem:** Yuma, Arizona, has a water hardness level between 18 and 22 grains per gallon. A family of five has been dealing with hard water issues in their home for years. These issues range from limescale buildup on all faucets, showerheads and appliances as well as bad-tasting water due to the municipality using chlorine to disinfect source water.

**Solution:** The family decided to invest in their home by purchasing the **Aquasure Signature Elite Series Whole House Water Filter System** to resolve issues with the water condition and quality coming into the home. This system addresses hard water by utilizing a pre-filter to help reduce any sediment. The water then enters the first tank, where the copper-zinc and coconut activated carbon reduces chlorine, odors, pesticides and more. The water then travels through the resin tank to address hardness through the process of ion-exchange, preventing calcium and magnesium from entering the system. A separate brine tank sits alongside to perform regeneration at different intervals. Finally, the reverse osmosis system purifies the water to provide the fresh, clean tasting for drinking and for cooking.

**Result:** Now that the family has addressed their hard water issues, they no longer worry about damaging limescale in their appliances and water fixtures. The reverse osmosis system has also had a positive effect on their health. Additionally, since the water tastes better, each member has been drinking more of it. **800-661-0680; [www.aquasureusa.com](http://www.aquasureusa.com)**

## Multiport drain adapter serves as a 'power strip' for drain connections



**Problem:** An Ohio-based plumber was frustrated by running out of space for multiple drain connections. Because appliances like water-treatment systems, beverage machines, dishwashers and washing machines all require drain connections, it was easy to run out of space fast. Further, local code requirements recently mandated air gaps for every drain connection, so he had to configure custom solutions that were costly and inconvenient.

**Solution:** The plumber now installs a **DrainHub Multi-Port Drain Adapter** from **Vista Water Group** on every job where multiple drain connections are required or may be necessary in the future. Available in two-, four- and eight-port models, the code-certified adapter features 1/2-inch threaded ports that accept a variety of push-to-connect, compression and hose barb adapter fittings. For installations that require air gaps, a model with an integrated air gap accommodates up to four drain connections to ensure code compliance and minimize splashing.

**Result:** The plumber and his customers now save space, cost and time while ensuring compliance with local plumbing codes by accommodating multiple drain connections in one small hub that enables expansion of drain-connection capacity for future installations. **480-462-2707; [www.vistawatergroup.com](http://www.vistawatergroup.com)**



## Contractor sees less exposure to risk on water heater jobs through training/practice

**Problem:** A Midwestern contractor had fewer lost hours from water heater injuries after searching/purchasing Hot Rod Hand Truck & Strap Kits for their employees. However, they were still having to devote additional resources to other jobs, even though the kits were ordered to help solve the issue. Risk of injury during lifting the tanks was brought down when the new tools were actually used the field, but the bottom-line goal was not being met.

**Solution:** The contractor's original research was correct. The **Hot Rod Hand Truck** from **Wolf Valley Tools**, with its accompanying strap kit, is a good fit for residential water heaters on platforms, even in tight spaces. It makes the water heater work in the plumber's favor instead of against. However, employees had not trained themselves as suggested, and weren't using the new tools to their potential. The contractor contacted the manufacturer and was immediately sent training materials. During a safety meeting, they discovered that employees had been training themselves on the job, only one job at a time. Using the training materials, the shop manager supervised a dedicated session where every employee collaborated and got multiple repetitions with their kits. Employees subsequently needed less help and were less prone to injury, and the bottom line went up.

**Result:** The bottom line has been increased, and the contractor is seeing less exposure to risk or injury. 951-609-4276; [www.hotrodhandtruck.com](http://www.hotrodhandtruck.com)

## High-efficiency tankless water heater meets needs at birthing center



**Problem:** The midwives at the Tourmaline Birth and Wellness Center in San Diego use warm water to fill birth tubs and provide gentle relief during labor. With a tank water heater, the center would be paying more money for less efficiency while likely running out of warm water in the middle of a birth. Also, given its location on the second level, the size of a tank water heater wouldn't provide enough room for the amount of hot-water storage required.

**Solution:** These factors made the decision to switch to a tankless heater much easier. "Water is our biggest coping mechanism in the birth setting," says owner Allison Tartari. "This is why one of Tourmaline's first construction concerns was finding a water heater that could provide this level of hot water continuously." After a conversation with a technical expert, not only did Tourmaline get the right model recommendation from Tankless Specialist of Arnett's Water Systems, Eric Arnett — a **EZ111**, a high-efficiency (0.96 UEF), condensing unit with a capacity range of up to 11 gallons of hot water per minute — but the product and components were fully donated by the manufacturer, **Noritz America**.

**Result:** "We've had no issues with our new tankless water heater — truly one of the only aspects of the opening I can say that about," says Maral Shabak, Tourmaline co-founder. "It's really a blessing for us and, even more so, for the moms in our care." 714-433-2905; [www.noritz.com](http://www.noritz.com)



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## Plumber

### Plumber seeks sound plumbing solution for rural waterfront home



**Problem:** When Jimie Yearwood of Yearwood Plumbing was tasked with plumbing a two-story, three-bathroom waterfront home in a secluded area of North Georgia, he knew he needed to use a reliable plumbing system. “[The customer was] not close to town, so it would take an hour at least to respond to a plumbing emergency,” Yearwood said. “If we’re making a trip down there for any leaks or warranty issues, we’re losing money. We want to make sure everything is right before we leave.”

**Solution:** With durability and efficiency in mind, he decided to complete the installation with **SharkBite's EvoPEX** push-to-connect plumbing system. EvoPEX minimizes installation errors and leaks with fittings that display a green indicator when the PEX pipe is properly inserted. And because the system doesn't require special tools or time-consuming installation techniques, jobs don't take as much time — or labor. The Yearwood Plumbing team finished the installation in just three hours. It would have taken them five to six hours if they had used traditional CPVC and crimping tools.

**Result:** “We loved it,” Yearwood says. “It was the quickest water installation I’ve ever done. There were a few places that would have been hard to get to with standard crimp tools. The push-fit fittings with EvoPEX were very simple and made the struggle go away.” 770-863-4083; [www.sharkbite.com](http://www.sharkbite.com) 

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# Product Spotlight

## Faucet line features quick install system

By Craig Mandli

**W**hether you're a first-timer just learning how to install a faucet, or a seasoned installation professional who's done it dozens of times, features that make the faucet easier to install are always appreciated. Matco-Norca recently announced the introduction of a new faucet family — Leverage — that features quick connect installation nuts on all two-handle faucets and single-handle kitchen pull-down faucets. The unique installation nuts are designed to smoothly slide over the shanks until they contact the surface, which engages the threads.

Leverage widespread, kitchen with side sprays, pull down and pullout faucets come with a knuckle-saving quick connect system that is designed to save the plumbing professional time, frustration and the chance of a leak point. All lavatory models incorporate push pop-ups which eliminates the timely and often frustrating installation of a conventional pop-up.

The quick-connect installation nut installs in seconds. Before tightening, simply place the Quick Mount nut onto the shank underneath the deck plate, then push it all the way up and twist it until tight.

Leverage faucets are EPA Water Sense certified and



listed with the California Energy Commission. All are factory tested and come with a limited lifetime finish and function warranty regardless of the application.

Single-handle ceramic valve kitchen faucets are available in single- or three-hole mount, and two- or four-hole mount, with the deck plate, copper inlet supply and ceramic cartridge included. They offer flows of up to 1.5 gpm

and are available in chrome or stainless steel. Lavatory faucets are available in single- or two-handle selections, with a 4-inch center set, integrated supply lines, a 50/50 Push Pop-Up, ceramic cartridges, and Quick Mount installation. They offer flows of up to 1.2 gpm and are available in chrome and brushed nickel.

All Leverage tub and shower trim packs include metal slip-on tub spouts, metal ball joints and can be paired with Matco-Norca's existing 799 pressure balancing rough-in valves, with and without stops. They come with a metal slip-on tub spout, and all mounting hardware. They offer flows of up to 1.8 gpm and come in chrome and brushed nickel. Replacement universal rough-in valves, cartridges and extensions kits are also available. **800-431-2082; [www.matco-norca.com](http://www.matco-norca.com)**

## BrassCraft gas connectors

BrassCraft yellow-coated gas connectors set the standard for plumbing pros. The connectors' polymer coating is designed to withstand prolonged exposure to harsh household chemicals, UV rays and salt. BrassCraft ProCoat is applied to the corrugated stainless steel connector using advanced powder coat technology. Connectors are available in configurations

for low-, medium- and high-demand appliances. BrassCraft provides the plumbing supplies you need to get the job done right — because this is more than your job, this is your craft. Explore solutions from BrassCraft, the professional's choice for over 75 years. **877-272-7755; [www.brasscraft.com/gasconnectors](http://www.brasscraft.com/gasconnectors)**



## Liberty Pumps Model 406 compact drain pump

The Model 406 drain pump by Liberty Pumps is the smallest unit now offered in its drain pump offering. The unit, designed to pump gray wastewater from sinks or showers, is compact enough to allow it to fit easily inside a cabinet or vanity. Other features include a contemporary appliance-style design, multiple inlet locations and extremely quiet operation. The discharge can be used with 1-, 1 1/4- or 1 1/2-inch pipe. Integral check valves are also designed into the unit. **800-543-2550; www.libertypumps.com**



## Franklin Electric Little Giant 12E Series effluent pump

Franklin Electric's Little Giant 12E Series 1/2 hp effluent pump for dewatering, water transfer and septic wastewater removal has a rugged design and reliable features that make it ideal for the most challenging deep vault effluent applications. At the heart of each unit is a unique cloverleaf intake that allows for higher flow with 3/4-inch diameter solids handling. The cast iron impeller delivers superior clog resistance. Surrounding it all is a heavy-duty epoxy-coated cast iron housing that stands up to the most extreme elements, including cold-weather climates where deep septic wells are common. Continuous duty rated, the energy-efficient PSC motor also includes thermal overload protection for reliable performance. The pumps are available in either a manual or automatic switch option. **866-271-2859; www.franklinengineered.com**



## FLIR T865 T-Series thermal camera

The T865 T-Series high-performance thermal camera from FLIR Systems is built for electrical condition and mechanical equipment inspection, and for use in research and development applications. The camera provides plus/minus 1.6 degrees F or plus/minus 1% temperature measurement accuracy, a wider temperature range between negative 40 to 248 degrees F, and more on-camera tools for improved analysis.

The T865 offers versatility with portable and handheld fixed mount options for inside and outside work in harsh

conditions, and multiple lens options to inspect objects both near and far. The available 6-degree telephoto lens provides the required magnification for those routinely inspecting the condition of small targets at a distance, such as overhead power lines. **866-477-3687; www.flir.com.**



## Gerber Plumbing Kinzie kitchen collection

Gerber Plumbing Fixtures introduced the Kinzie kitchen collection. The rustic yet polished vibe draws inspiration from vintage-era plumbing forms with a touch of modern style. The collection spans many product options for a complete look, including pre-rinse, pull-down and pull-down prep faucets, and a wall-mounted pot filler featuring an articulating arm for long reach and compact storage. All Kinzie kitchen sink faucets feature a toggle button to easily change between spray and stream functions, 360-degree swivel spouts, and durable ceramic disc valves for smooth operation and drip-free performance. The line offers multiple finish options including chrome, satin black, stainless steel and brushed bronze. **866-538-5536; www.gerber-us.com**



## Lumastrobe COB LED spotlight

The new spider-flex COB light from Lumastrobe has a magnetic, flexible tripod base that can be mounted on any flat surface, stuck to a metal surface, or wrapped around railings, posts or pipes. The light has three operating modes: high, low or flashlight, and comes complete with three AAA batteries, so it is ready to use. **800-775-5862; www.lumastrobe.com**

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