



# JIM'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO YOUR HOME'S PLUMBING

## WHAT'S INCLUDED...

- *How to unclog your sink*
- *Get rid of hard water calcium buildup*
- *Why your toilet is constantly running (and how to fix it)*
- *Expert plumber solutions and recommendations*
- *When you need to hire a professional plumber*
- *How to find the right plumbing company for you*





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- About Jim’s Plumbing Now.....2
- Meet Jim Parker.....3
- Understanding Your Home’s Plumbing Systems.....4
- Drain and Sewer Lines.....5
  - Plumbing Problems Below The Slab
  - How To Detect Leaks In Sewer and Drain Lines
  - How Plumbing Below The Slab Is Repaired
- Water Heaters.....6
  - Common Problems And How To Fix Them
  - Maintaining Your Water Heater
- In The Kitchen.....8
  - Fixing A Clogged Garbage Disposal
  - Eliminating Sink Odors
  - Ensuring Your Sink Drains Properly
- In The Bathroom.....9
  - Draining Your Tub And Shower
  - Unclogging Sinks And Toilets
  - Why Your Toilet Is Constantly Running
- Finding The Right Plumber For You.....11
  - Qualities To Look For In A Trustworthy Plumber
  - Red Flags To Watch Out For



# ABOUT JIM'S PLUMBING NOW

Jim's Plumbing Now has become the trusted Dallas and Fort Worth plumber in just a few short years. **Established by Jim Parker, our team of over 10 expert, licensed plumbers is here to fix your plumbing the right way, right away.**

With decades of experience in the plumbing industry, Jim has served across Texas with the services they deserve for over 25 years. Emphasizing the commitment to customer experience, education, and honesty, Jim and his team of licensed, professional plumbers continue to strive for excellence in the Carrollton and DFW area.

When you need a plumber that you can trust, Jim's Plumbing Now is your number-one choice.



💧 **WATER HEATERS AND WATER SOFTNERS**

💧 **SLAB LEAKS**

💧 **TANKLESS WATER HEATERS**

💧 **SEWER AND GAS LINE SERVICES**

💧 **DRAIN CLEANING**

💧 **LEAK DETECTION AND CAMERA INSPECTIONS**

💧 **BACKFLOW REPAIR**

💧 **PIPE REPAIR AND RE-PIPING**

💧 **COMMERCIAL PLUMBING**

💧 **SHOWERS AND TUBS**

💧 **WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS**

💧 **FAUCETS AND SINKS**

💧 **TOILET REPAIRS**

# MEET JIM PARKER

*Owner and Founder*  
Jim's Plumbing Now

Jim Parker began his plumbing career in Irving, Texas, back in 1998. At just 18 years old, Jim climbed the ladder at a large company to then be promoted to Business Manager for the company in the San Antonio location at the age of 24.

After several years as a business manager for a large corporation, Jim wanted to create his own legacy. He started a successful San Antonio plumbing company which he ran for 10 more years before deciding to return back home to Dallas.

Within just a few short years, Jim created and grew Jim's Plumbing Now (JPN) to be your trusted plumber in Dallas and Fort Worth for both residential and commercial plumbing services.

---

Jim spends his time between running his business in Dallas and spending time with his wife of over 20 years and two sons in San Antonio.

One of Jim's passions is his faith, as he is an active member at the Community Bible Church and also leads multiple prayer groups and bible studies through Champions In Christ Ministry.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT JIM PARKER**  
**AND HIS STORY!**

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR HOME'S PLUMBING SYSTEM

Your home's plumbing is a complex system made up of various components from each room. However, you can easily understand how your home's plumbing works by breaking it down at each component of the plumbing system, which typically includes your **water, sewer, and gas**.

Your plumbing starts at the water meter near the street. Anything that comes out of this meter is at your cost. This water supplies your potable water.

**Your plumbing's drain system connects to what is called a two-way cleanout located around the perimeter of your home.** These cleanouts allow a plumber to test for leaks and use a camera to pinpoint problem areas.

Now, we're nearly touching the surface on the intricate world of plumbing. However, having a simple understanding is important to help understand your home and where the source of any problem connects to.



## POTABLE WATER

Potable water is clean water that comes through your plumbing. We use this water to drink, wash dishes and clothes, and more.

Your potable water system drains to the main sewage drain line, which then sends the water to a municipal sewage system.



## SEWER

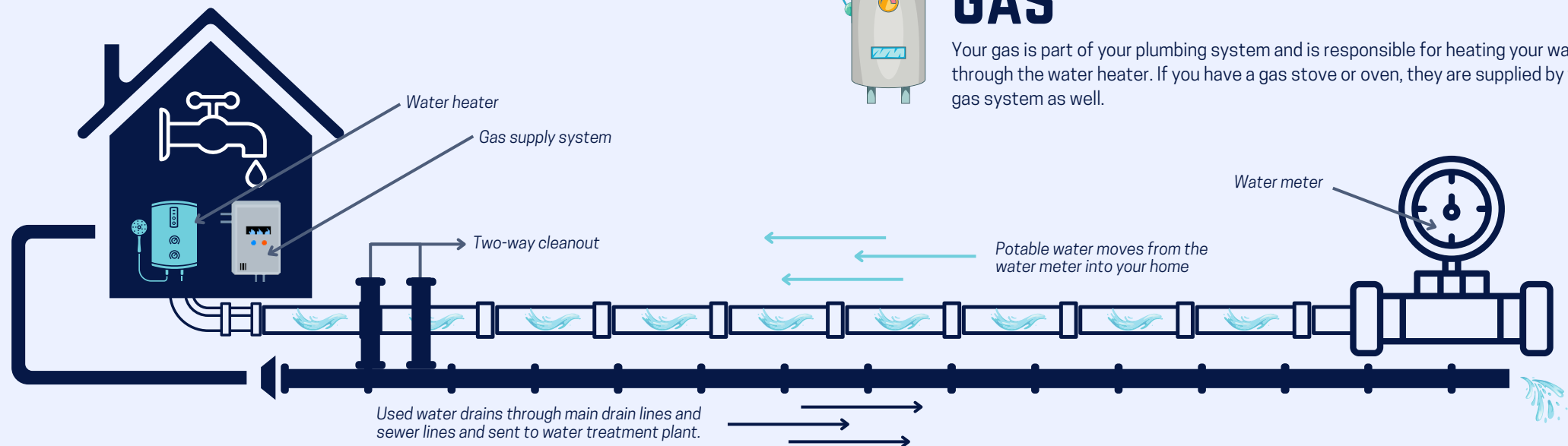
The sewer system is the drain system connected to the main drain lines under your home that drains water away from your home.

This water is then sent through a water treatment plant to then be cycled and cleaned to return to rivers and lakes.

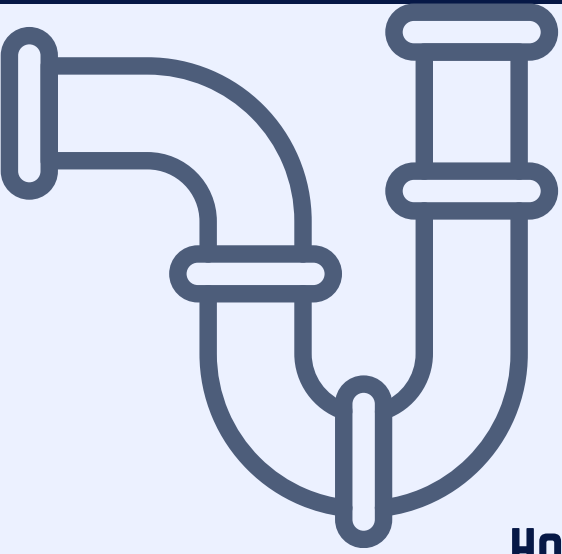


## GAS

Your gas is part of your plumbing system and is responsible for heating your water through the water heater. If you have a gas stove or oven, they are supplied by your gas system as well.







# POTABLE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS UNDER THE SLAB

Your potable water system and sewage system are located under the slab of your home. These systems allow for water to properly enter your home and drain into municipal sewer systems.

**The biggest problems that can occur with your sewage systems under the slab is a slab leak.**

## WHAT CAUSES SLAB LEAK?

A slab leak happens when there is a break in your plumbing underneath the slab. **This can be caused by old, outdated plumbing, root intrusion, recent foundation repair or improper installation of new plumbing materials.**

## HOW ARE DRAIN LINES BELOW THE SLAB REPAIRED?

To repair drain lines below the slab, the leak must first be identified and located through a pinpoint camera test. Once the leak is detected, the ground is excavated to the point of the leak for the plumber to access the problem area and appropriately repair the plumbing.



1

### HYDROSTATIC TEST REQUIRED

A hydrostatic test determines and confirms there is a leak in your plumbing under the slab. It consists of plugging the drain system, filling it up with water, and seeing if the water holds or drops. **If the water level drops, there is a leak in your plumbing.**



2

### PINPOINT CAMERA TEST

Following a failed hydrostatic test, a pinpoint camera test allows the plumber to use a fiberoptic camera to feed through the plumbing and continue to test the system to locate exactly where the leak is.



3

### EXCAVATION TO LEAK SOURCE

When it's time to repair the plumbing leak, first an excavation team will create an access point either from the perimeter of your home or directly at the leak source inside your home to reach the plumbing under the slab.



4

### PROFESSIONAL REPAIR

A professional, licensed plumber will begin repairing the plumbing and replacing any faulty plumbing equipment with new plumbing.



5

### BACKFILL SOIL TO 80%

Once repairs have been completed, the soil that was removed from under the slab is put back to an 80% compaction rate. **This is crucial to ensure your foundation is stable and your plumbing won't move under the foundation.**



6

### LONG-LASTING PLUMBING

Once repairs have been completed, the soil that was removed from under the slab is put back to an 80% compaction rate. **This is crucial to ensure your foundation is stable and your plumbing won't move under the foundation.**



**CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SLAB LEAK REPAIRS!**





# WATER HEATERS



Your water heater is an essential part of your plumbing system. It is responsible for providing you with hot water on demand, whenever you need it. There are two types of water heaters: tankless and tank-type.

- **Tankless water heaters** heat water on demand, meaning they don't store hot water. Instead, they quickly heat water as it passes through the unit, providing a continuous supply of hot water without the need for a large storage tank.
- **Tank-type water heaters** store a large volume of water in a tank and keep it hot until it's needed. When you turn on the hot water tap, the stored water flows out, and the tank refills, reheating the new water.

No matter the type of water heater you have in your home, it's important to be aware of proper maintenance for your water heater and how to troubleshoot common problems to extend its lifespan and keep it running properly.

## COMMON WATER HEATER PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

### No Hot Water or Cold Water

No hot water means there is a problem with the heating element or thermostat on your water heater.

- For electric water heaters, check the breaker and reset it. If the breaker is fine, the heating element or thermostat may need replacing.
- For gas water heaters, check if the pilot light is out or the gas valve needs adjusting. You can relight the pilot light or call a professional plumber for help.

### The Water is Too Hot

If your water feels way too hot when using hot water, the thermostat may be set too high.

- Your water heater thermostat should be set around 120 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid scalding and also save energy.

### Leaking Around The Water Heater

Leaks around your water heater can occur from a corroded tank, valve issues, or loose connections to the water supply.

- Tighten loose connections and replace faulty valves if leaks are present there.
- If the tank is leaking, the only real solution is to replace the water heater as it is most likely corroded.

### Rusty or Discolored Water

Rusty water or discolored water indicates corrosion in the water tank, which can be detrimental to your water heater as well as your health.

- If rust is present in your water, the anode rod may need replacing. This rod is what helps prevent corrosion in the tank.
- **If the problem continues, you may need to replace your water heater.**

### Strange Noises When Using Hot Water

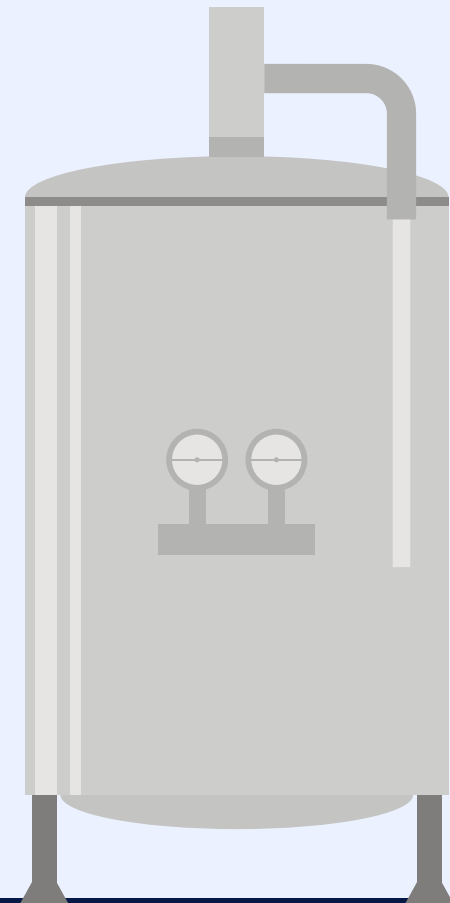
If you hear strange rumblings, banging, or popping sounds when you use hot water, it could be caused by sediment buildup within your water tank.

- Flushing your water heater will remove any sediment that has accumulated within the tank.
- If the noises continue after flushing, the sounds could be because of old age, meaning a replacement is needed.

### Low Water Pressure

Low hot water pressure can occur when too much sediment and mineral deposits are stuck in the pipes, creating blockages.

- Tighten loose connections and replace faulty valves if leaks are present there.
- If the tank is leaking, the only real solution is to replace the water heater as it is most likely corroded.





# WATER HEATERS



Whether you have a tankless or tank-type water heater in your home, ensuring it is performing at its prime is crucial for the health of your plumbing and your family.

**If your water heater is damaged or has rusted parts, this not only decreases its efficiency but costs you more in water and energy bills. It can also be detrimental to your health if water becomes contaminated and is consumed.**

If you have an older water heater or have noticed problems with your hot water, you want to learn more about what signs indicate it's time to replace your water heater.

## WHEN YOU NEED TO REPLACE YOUR WATER HEATER

**CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO OF A JIM'S PLUMBING NOW WATER HEATER REPLACEMENT AND WHAT UPGRADES WE MAKE TO MAKE YOUR NEW WATER HEATER MORE EFFICIENT!**



### Your water heater is over 15 years old

As your water heater ages, it becomes less efficient, requiring more energy to heat the same amount of water. After this time, the internal components, like the tank lining, heating elements, and valves, start to degrade.



### Rust or discoloration in water

Rusty or discolored water coming from the hot water tap is often due to corrosion inside the water heater's tank. Rust inside the tank indicates structural weakness, and eventually, the tank can corrode completely, leading to leaks or even flooding.



### Inconsistent water temperatures

When the heating element or thermostat fails, the water heater loses efficiency, requiring more energy and time to heat water. Inconsistent water temperatures can also indicate a deeper problem and that the system could fail soon.



### Leaks around the water heater

Leaks from your water heater can occur due to a variety of reasons, including corrosion, pressure buildup, or a failing tank. If left untreated, leaks can lead to flooding, water damage, and mold growth in your home.



### Strange noises when using hot water

Noises coming from your water heater are typically caused by sediment buildup at the bottom of the tank. Sediment buildup causes the water heater to work harder to heat the water, which increases energy consumption and shortens the lifespan of the entire unit.



### Constant costly repairs

If you're frequently needing repairs, it's a sign that the system is no longer reliable. The cost of repairs can quickly add up and may end up costing more than simply replacing the unit with a new, more efficient model.





# IN THE KITCHEN



The kitchen is one of the most used areas in the home. From cooking nightly dinners to preparing for bake sales and science fairs, many substances end up going down our sinks and the dishwasher.

**Because of this, the plumbing in your kitchen is easily susceptible to clogging, including calcium buildup at the faucet.**

Let's look at common problems you'll encounter with your kitchen plumbing, easy DIY fixes, and when you need to hire a professional.



## THE KITCHEN SINK

The most common problems you'll have with your kitchen sink are calcium buildup in your faucet, odors coming from the sink, and slow draining or clogging.

### FAUCET CALCIUM BUILDUP

Calcium buildup occurs in homes of areas with hard water. Hard water has a higher calcium content, which tends to build up overtime and create issues with the flow of your sink.

- To fix this issue, you can easily unscrew the aerator and clean out debris under it. **You can also pop off the screen of the faucet and clean it with vinegar and water to dissolve the calcium.**

*(Pro tip: if the tip doesn't come off easily, you can use a towel or rag over the cap and use channel locks if necessary.)*

### SMELLY ODORS AND CLOGS

Lingering odors in your sink typically come from the sink not draining properly, allowing food debris to marinate and create pesky smells.

- To easily clear your drains and eliminate odors, use a mixture of baking soda and vinegar. **Pour one part baking soda into the sink, then pour equal parts vinegar and let bubble for 30 minutes.** Rinse with cold water.

If odors continue to linger and you notice your sink not draining properly, you may need professional drain cleaning to clear all clogs further in your plumbing.

**[Read all about the benefits of professional drain cleaning and finding the right plumber!](#)**



## THE GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Problems with your garbage disposal stem from what goes down them. If you put the wrong food and items down your disposal, it can cause mechanical issues as well as problems with draining.

### WHAT CAN AND CAN'T GO DOWN THE DISPOSAL

Ensuring you don't allow the wrong foods to go down your disposal is the first defense mechanism to [keep your disposal functioning properly](#).

Some foods that are okay to go down the disposal are:

- **Soft foods, like fruits, vegetables, and eggs**
- **Liquids, like water, milk, and juices (small amounts of oil are okay)**
- **Citrus rinds**

Foods that should not go down the disposal are:

- **Animal bones**
- **Eggshells**
- **Pasta, rice, potatoes, and other starchy foods**
- **Large quantities of oil**
- **Coffee grounds**
- **Fruit pits**

### GARBAGE DISPOSAL MAINTENANCE

One of the best ways to catch the wrong food from going down your drain is using a small sink strainer. This strainer simply sits at the base of your sink drain and catches any large food items from entering your drain.

**If you have a clogged garbage disposal or a slow-draining kitchen sink, use a drain snake and vinegar and baking soda mixture to clear the drain easily.**

Consult a professional plumber for major clogging or garbage disposal problems.



## THE DISHWASHER

Because your dishwasher also intakes various food debris, it can also become a victim of clogging and functional issues.

### COMMON DISHWASHER PROBLEMS

- **Not draining properly:** If you notice water pooling around your dishwasher when it runs, it's probably not draining properly. Check that the drain hose is not clogged with food debris and is properly connected to the garbage disposal as they share the same drain line. Also, check that the dishwasher filter is not full of food waste, which can also cause draining issues.
- **Leaky dishwasher:** If your dishwasher is leaking, you also want to first check the seal around the dishwasher to ensure there are no gaps where water can seep through. You also want to check the float switch. This switch indicates the water level in your dishwasher. If it is in the down position, your dishwasher may be overfilling, causing it to leak.
- **Smelly dishwasher:** This typically comes from excess food debris trapped in the filter and spray arms. Use white vinegar in a dishwasher-safe bowl, place at the bottom of your dishwasher, and run a cycle to help break up any food and eliminate odors.

### SMELLY ODORS AND CLOGS

Lingering odors in your sink typically come from the sink not draining properly, allowing food debris to marinate and create pesky smells.

- To easily clear your drains and eliminate odors, use a mixture of baking soda and vinegar. **Pour one part baking soda into the sink, then pour equal parts vinegar and let bubble for 30 minutes.** Rinse with cold water.

If odors continue to linger and you notice your sink not draining properly, you may need professional drain cleaning to clear all clogs further in your plumbing.

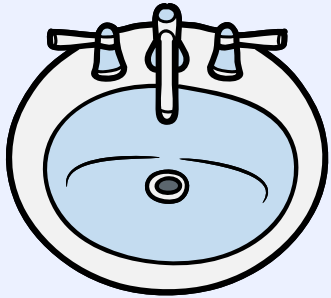


# IN THE BATHROOM



Any bathroom in your home is an essential space. If the plumbing is not up to par, it not only can cause discomfort for your family and guests but can also cause irreversible plumbing damage. **If something goes wrong with your bathroom sink, shower, bathtub, or toilet, you want to address it immediately to keep the water flowing and maintain your plumbing properly.**

Let's explore some common plumbing issues you may find in your bathroom and simple solutions you can fix yourself or potentially hire a professional for.



## BATHROOM SINK

Your bathroom sink encounters problems similar to those of your kitchen sink. They are susceptible to clogging, improper drainage, and more.

**Luckily, the most common problems in your bathroom can be fixed yourself.** Some problems you may experience with your bathroom sink include:

- **CLOGGED DRAIN** *caused by hair and soap scum buildup*
- **LEAKY FAUCET** *caused by old and worn out washers or gaskets*
- **LOW WATER PRESSURE** *caused by sediment buildup in the aerator*
- **LEAKING UNDER THE SINK** *caused by loose connections or corroded pipes*
- **SINK ODORS** *caused by buildup and clogs in the P-trap*
- **RUSTY WATER** *caused by old pipes or a corroded water heater*

### Simple Fixes

#### CLOGGED DRAIN

Use a drain snake to remove hair buildup or a baking soda and vinegar mixture to remove buildup.

#### SINK ODORS

Use a bio-enzyme drain cleaner to remove and refresh the sink drain. Or, remove and clean the P-trap under the sink to remove odor-causing debris.

#### LEAKING UNDER THE SINK

Tighten the connections or replace the section of the pipe. For joints, applying a plumber's tape or replacing the seal can also help.

#### RUSTY WATER

If rusty water is coming out of your bathroom sink, the pipes leading to the sink need replacing. It's possible the water heater needs replacing, too.

#### LEAKY FAUCET

Replace washers on faucet handles to ensure a complete, tight seal when water is shut off.

#### LOW WATER PRESSURE

Unscrew the aerator from the faucet and clean off any debris buildup. You can also soak the aerator in vinegar to remove calcium buildup.



## BATHTUB AND SHOWER

The bathtub and shower are typically where you start and end your day. It energizes you to start your morning and is your oasis at the end of a stressful, busy day.

**Problems with your bathtub and shower can be solved similarly to the common issues with your bathroom sink, which include:**

- **CLOGGED DRAIN/STANDING WATER** *caused by hair and soap scum buildup in drains*
- **LEAKY FAUCET AND SHOWER HEAD** *caused by worn out washers, gaskets, or O-rings*
- **POOR WATER PRESSURE** *caused by mineral buildup in the showered*
- **TEMPERATURE CHANGES** *caused by malfunctioning mixing valve*
- **MOLD AND MILDEW** *caused by excess moisture and lack of ventilation*
- **CRACKED OR LEAKING SHOWER BASE** *caused by cracks in the shower base or poor seals*

### Simple Fixes

#### CLOGGED DRAIN/STANDING WATER

Use a drain snake to remove hair buildup or a baking soda and vinegar mixture to remove buildup.

#### LEAKY FAUCET/SHOWER HEAD

Remove faucet/shower head and replace worn washers and cartridges. Check faucet handles and levers for any looseness and jiggling.

#### TEMPERATURE CHANGES

Check and adjust or replace the pressure-balancing valve or thermostatic mixing valve to stabilize temperature changes.

#### POOR WATER PRESSURE

Unscrew the shower head from the base and clean off any debris buildup. Soak the aerator in vinegar to remove calcium buildup.

#### MOLD AND MILDEW

Improve ventilation by using an exhaust fan or leaving the bathroom door or window open after showers. Regularly clean the area with mold-resistant cleaners.

#### CRACKED/LEAKING SHOWER BASE

Seal any visible cracks with a waterproof sealant. For larger issues, the shower tray may need to be replaced by a professional plumber.



**Pro Tip:** Use chemical drain cleaners sparingly as they can damage plumbing over time, especially if used frequently.





# IN THE BATHROOM



## TOILET

Pesky toilet problems can be the most inconvenient when it comes to your bathroom, especially when there is limited space in your home. **If you have any toilet issues, no matter how small, it can seem like a large feat to overcome, though it doesn't have to be.**

Common problems that occur with your bathroom toilet include...

- **CLOGGED TOILET** *caused by blockages from toilet paper or non-flushable items*
- **RUNNING TOILET** *caused faulty flapper or flush valve*
- **WEAK OR NO FLUSH** *caused by clogged holes under toilet bowl rim*
- **PHANTOM FLUSHES** *caused by a slow leak from the tank to the bowl*
- **TOILET LEAKS** *caused by worn seal around toilet, loose bolts, or cracks in the tank*
- **SEWER SMELL** *caused by a broken seal around the toilet or vent issue*



### Simple Fixes

#### CLOGGED TOILET

First, use a plunger to dislodge any blockages. Pour a large bucket of hot water slowly into the bowl to loosen any clogs. If clogs persist, inspection further down the plumbing may be necessary.

#### RUNNING TOILET

Replace the flapper or adjust the float in the tank to ensure the fill valve stops at the proper water level.

#### PHANTOM FLUSHES

Replace the flapper or the tank ball if it does not form a good seal. This prevents water from trickling into the bowl.

#### WEAK OR NO FLUSH

Use a curved wire or a small piece of wire hanger to clear the rim holes. Check the tank's water level to ensure it's adequate for a proper flush.

#### TOILET LEAKS

Tighten bolts around the base of the toilet that secure it to the floor and replace wax ring if needed. For leaks from the tank, check the tank bolts and gasket.

#### SEWER SMELL

Check and replace the wax seal if necessary and ensure the vent pipe is not clogged or blocked, as it vents sewer gases out of the home.



# FINDING THE RIGHT PLUMBER FOR YOU

Whether you're dealing with a leak, a clogged drain, or simply need routine maintenance, choosing the right plumbing service is the first step to ensuring a successful resolution. With numerous options, from national chains to local providers, it can be challenging to sift through and select the one that best fits your needs.

**Knowing what to look for in a trustworthy plumber is crucial to making the right decision and ensuring your plumbing project is completed with expertise and care.** Let's look at 8 things to look for to distinguish a high-quality plumber from a lower-quality one so you can feel confident in your search for the right plumbing company for you.

## 1. THEY HAVE LICENSED, INSURED PLUMBERS

Working with a company that has licensed and journeyman plumbers is the first thing to confirm before moving forward. The plumbers and the company must also be insured to protect your home as well as the company.

## 2. THEY WORK UNDER A MASTER PLUMBER

Every reputable plumbing company must have a license and work under a master plumber. The master plumber has extensive training and accumulated years of experience, ensuring a higher standard of workmanship.

## 3. THEY SHOW OFF THEIR PLUMBERS

Would you rather work with a company that you have no clue what their team looks like or one that continuously shows off their plumbers on their website and social media? Seeing your plumber before your appointment helps build trust and lets you feel confident in who will be performing your plumbing service.

## 4. THEY ARE ATTENTATIVE AND COURTEOUS

When inviting a plumber into your home to perform a service, you want them to do it with care and be courteous of your time. You also want a plumber who treats your home as their own. If a plumber comes over to inspect the problem and provide a quote and aren't respectful of you, your home, and your time, this is a red flag.

## 5. THEY PROVIDE TRANSPARENT PRICING

The last thing you want is to get ripped off by a faulty plumbing company. You want to work with a company that provides you with a comprehensive quote for your plumbing service and a full breakdown of what goes into the cost so you know there are no hidden fees or silent charges.

## 6. THEY HAVE POSITIVE ONLINE REVIEWS

Online reviews can say a lot about a company. You want to work with a company that has raving 5-star reviews across the board and also responds to their online reviews. If they have more negative reviews than positive reviews, this is a tell-tale sign to keep looking.

## 7. THEY ARRIVE IN A BRANDED UNIFORM

The best plumbing companies take pride in how they present themselves to their clientele. A high-quality plumber will arrive to your home in a branded vehicle and a clean uniform.

## 8. THEY PROVIDE A QUALITY WARRANTY

Warranty is a crucial element to protecting the work of the plumber and your home. If a plumbing company offers a short-term warranty or no warranty at all, this indicates they do not stand behind their work or expect it to last. You want to work with a plumber that offers a long-term, comprehensive warranty that ensures their work for years in your home. Their warranty also indicates the company's longevity and standing in your area.





# LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT PLUMBER IN DALLAS AND FORT WORTH?

Jim's Plumbing Now is here to offer you comprehensive plumbing solutions backed by licensed and professional plumbers with decades of experience.

From water heater replacements to clearing clogs, we're here to educate you and guide you to the best options for you!

**SCAN TO MEET THE JIM'S PLUMBING NOW TEAM AND SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT!**

