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## Venting Makes Indoor Plumbing Possible

The first evidence of a mechanical flushing toilet dates to 1596, invented by a Sir John Harington in England. Ensuring centuries saw various European and American inventors patent designs for workable toilets.

So why did it take until the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century for indoor plumbing to finally catch on? The main reason is because most people thought moving the toilet indoors a bad idea, and who can blame them? They stunk up the house!

Indoor plumbing did not really come alive until the 1880s. The real hero of modern plumbing is not any of the toilet tinkerers, but a New York City sanitary engineer by the name of George Waring, Jr., who throughout his career crusaded for better sanitation and wrote numerous books and articles detailing how to achieve it.

Perhaps the most important of these books was his 1876 publication of *The Sanitary Drainage of Houses and Towns*, which offered detailed instruction about the placement of plumbing vents.

Vents enable drains to flow freely by allowing air into drainage systems. This avoids creating a vacuum that prevents or slows drainage from occurring at toilets and other fixtures.

To see this effect, try turning a bottle of water or any other liquid upside down. The liquid does not flow freely out of the bottle's narrow opening. A little will spill out but the spillage will come to an almost complete stop until some air comes into the bottle to fill the vacuum created by the suction of the water spilling out. Now try the same experiment, but try punching a little hole into the bottom of your bottle before you turn it upside down. **Continue Reading on Page 2**



## Venting Makes Indoor Plumbing Possible

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Because air can easily enter the bottle, the liquid flows much more smoothly out of the bottle mouth. This is what venting does to your plumbing system. Without vents indoor plumbing would remain a bad idea.

Plumbing vents also allow sewer gases to be vented safely outdoors. Sewer gases accumulate both from the outside, backing up inside a building from a public sewer or private septic system, and from the inside as toilet waste flows through the building pipes. Plumbing vents typically exit above the roof line of a home or building so they don't leave unpleasant odors and possibly dangerous gases inside the building.

Venting is more than simply punching a bunch of air holes in a draining system. For a plumbing system to work right the vents must be of sufficient size and the right distance from the fixtures served. Over the years George Waring and other sanitation engineers figured out the correct formulas, which are now incorporated into tables and adopted by plumbing codes around the country to guide plumbers when they install plumbing systems in new buildings.

Many people look at plumbing as only about turning wrenches and other relatively simple mechanical tasks. It's a lot more complicated than that. We see some real bungled do-it-yourself projects from people who know little about the importance of venting.



## Ice Chalk Art Cubes

Using a few simple ingredients you can make beautiful colors with home made ice chalk.

- You'll need a simple ice cube tray to start. Fill each slot with 30% baking soda and 40% corn starch.
- Add a couple of drops of liquid water color or food coloring. (Liquid water color will be more vibrant. You can find bottles of it at local craft stores or on sites such as Amazon.com).
- Fill the tray the rest of the way with water, gently mix, then freeze until solid.
- Take your ice chalk outside, grab a spray bottle of vinegar & small paint brushes then spray the cubes with vinegar. The chalk explodes with color!



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## Household Hazards Keep Increasing for Toddlers

It seems like evening news programs are always talking about a new hazard you've never thought of. Something that crept up on me and a lot of other people recently is the danger presented by those popular laundry detergent pods. A recent news story reported that some 17,000 children under the age of six have gone to emergency treatment centers after ingesting laundry pods or getting detergent in their eye.

To a child the colorful laundry packets may resemble candy, but they can cause serious intestinal injury if bitten and swallowed. It's common for moms and dads to have a child close by when doing laundry. Often they make a game of it by inviting the youngster to help out handling the items to be washed. But all it takes is a few seconds with your back turned for a toddler to grab one of those pods.

Please be sure to keep all household cleaning products out of the reach of small children. If possible, put a lock on the door leading to your laundry area so they can't get in to "play house" when you're not watching.

Also, keep those laundry pods in their original container so they don't look like pieces of candy waiting to be grabbed. And, read the warning label so you know what to do if a child does ingest one while you're around.

Oh, and put a childproof lock on those front-loading washing machines. Small children love to open the doors and crawl inside.



## Coupon Corner

**\$25 off**

**New Disposer**

One time use. Expires 07/31/15. Cannot be combined with other offers. Coupon must be presented at time of service.

**10% off**

**Plumbing Repair**

One time use. Expires 07/31/15. Cannot be combined with other offers. Coupon must be presented at time of service. Maximum value \$200.

**\$100 off**

**New Water Heater**

One time use. Expires 07/31/15. Cannot be combined with other offers. Coupon must be presented at time of service.

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## Services We Offer:

- AceDuraFlo restoration of existing water pipes
- Backflow repair, replacement & certification
  - Sewer line repair or replacement
  - Water heaters, tank or tankless
  - Whole house or partial repipes
  - Gas pipe repair or replacement
  - Fixture repairs & replacement
  - Faucet repair & replacement
  - Video drain line inspection
    - Backup generators
    - Drain Leak repair
    - Drain clearing
    - Disposer
- Repair or replacement of almost anything that uses water

**We specialize in plumbing service & repair, not HVAC, electrical, carpets or pest control.**

## Beat the Summer Heat

### Check out these unique tips for beating the summer heat!

- When the air outside is dry, hang a damp sheet in an open window. Incoming breezes will be cooled by the evaporating water.
- Close curtains and blinds with sun-deflecting white on the window side. This can reduce the heat passing into your house by as much as 45%!
- Place a shallow bowl of ice in front of a fan and enjoy the breeze!
- Let your computer take a nap. Set it to a low power mode which puts it to sleep after 10 minutes so it generates less heat.
- Skip the drying cycle on the dishwasher and simply air dry your dishes. Use the dishwasher at night when the air is cooler.
- Stay hydrated! Avoid beverages that contain alcohol, caffeine, or lots of sugar. These are dehydrating. Opt for hydrating fruits and vegetables such as watermelon, cantaloupe.

Source: [www.realsimple.com](http://www.realsimple.com)