



Top 5 Most Common Plumbing Mistakes

1. Not enough space on the side of a toilet. Code requires a minimum of 15" side clearance from the center of the toilet to side walls/tubs/vanities/ or any other obstruction. For a handicap toilet, side clearance needs to be between 16" – 18".
2. Failed pressure test for drainage or water pipe system. This means there is a leak somewhere in the system. For drainage pipes, code requires the system to be tested at 5 psi air test, or a water test with a 10' head of water. For water pipes, the system must hold working pressure without any leaks or 50 psi of air.
3. Improper venting for fixture traps. Code requires proper venting for all fixtures to prevent sewer gas from entering the structure. There are several ways to vent the drainage system like a "wet vent", "combination waste and vent," "waste stack vent," etc. A contractor or home owner is responsible to use a proper vent system allowed by code, complete with the correct use of fittings.
4. Water pipes are too small. The minimum size of a water pipe is based on the unit load assigned to a fixture by code. This is a requirement that often gets overlooked.
5. Work doesn't match the approved plans. Inspectors will make sure the engineers design is followed on a commercial project. If changes need to be made out in the field, they also need to be made to the plans with a splice.

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Diagram - Bathroom Layout



**4. Water pipes are too small for the unit load.
In this example, too many fixture units for a 1/2" pipe**



5. Work doesn't match the approved plans