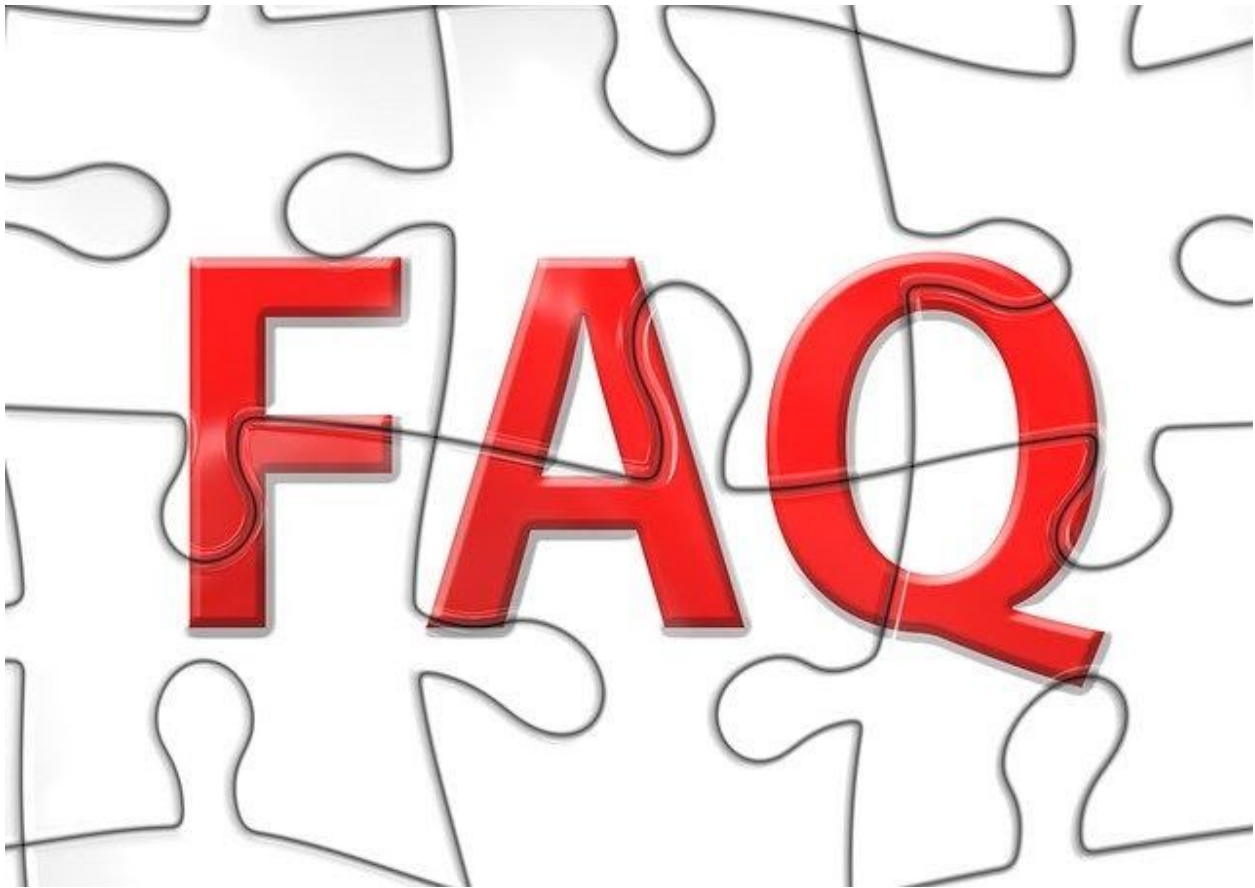


10 Most Frequently Asked Plumbing Questions & Answers



We count on our plumbing everyday so that we can shower, brush our teeth, clean dishes, and flush toilets, among other functions. But when something stops working, we notice it right away, and it can be quite disruptive. Below are 10 frequently asked questions and answers to address your plumbing concerns.

1. Why Does The Toilet Keep Running?

Ah, the curse of the running toilet. Though it's one of the most common plumbing FAQ's, there's an easy answer and solution. Usually, the problem is caused by the flapper--located in the toilet tank--not closing around the flush valve. Tap or jiggle the handle, and if that doesn't work, you'll need to replace the flapper. It's important to address because when the flapper doesn't seal, water leaks into the toilet, prohibiting the tank from filling and turning off the water supply.

2. What Should I Put Down The Garbage Disposal?

Some folks treat garbage disposals as their pet great white shark that can eat anything you feed it. Unlike Jaws, your garbage disposal can't break down egg shells, coffee grounds, cucumber

skin, oil, grease, and other food waste. Instead, send soft foods down there like bread, cooked carrots, and mashed potatoes. Always run water while using the disposal because it helps break down the foods and flush them through the drain.

3. Can I Mix Chemicals to Clean My Drains?

No, no, no! As [we've previously written and sternly warned](#), mixing chemicals is dangerous at best and lethal at worst. We hear of people combining bleach, Lysol, Windex, alcohol, and other cleaners, which is toxic and likely to damage piping and/or make you sick. It's best to stick with one cleaner or use a safe combo of soap and all-purpose cleaner.

4. What Causes Drains to Clog?

For kitchen sinks, the usual suspects are food waste and grease. Send food down the garbage disposal, but don't dump grease down the sink. Instead wipe grease and throw it away because it can cause build-up that will stop up drains. For other drains, like bathroom sinks and showers, soap and hair residues create clogs. Respect your drains.

5. How Do I Unclog My Bathtub?

Start with a plunger or safe cleaner. If that doesn't work, use a snake to break up the clog and remove the blockage.

6. What Causes A Faucet To Leak?

The main culprit here is wear and tear. Gaskets, o-rings, and valves get corroded, and the leaking commences. Don't worry; we can replace these parts without installing a new faucet.

7. My Pipes Rattle And Make Noise. What Gives?

The issue is unsecured pipes. Unsupported pipes shake against floor joists while water is running through them. This is a job for your plumber.

8. What Uses The Most Water In My Home?

This is a multiple choice question:

- a) Showers
- b) Baths
- c) Toilets
- d) All of the above
- e) None of the above

If you chose c) Toilets, you are correct! You'd think toilets would come in third place behind showers and baths, but toilets are used most frequently. Conserve that water usage by making sure toilets are running properly without leaks.

9. How Do I Prevent My Pipes From Freezing?

If water in a pipe freezes, it expands, creating pressure on metal and plastic pipes. This can cause the pipe to break, and then you don't have to book a trip to Niagara Falls because water will cascade into your home. The best way to protect your pipes from freezing is by insulating them or leaving the water on a slow drip on nights with sub-zero temperatures.

10. Why Isn't The Water Draining From The Dishwasher?

A lot can go wrong with dishwashers. The most common reasons for stop-ups are clogs, blocked strainer baskets, and food buildup and debris in air hoses. Time to call the plumber for this one.

We Got This!

Let us come out and fix your plumbing problems. We are an [essential business](#), and we'll repair your plumbing so that everything is working safely and properly. [Contact Alan Tinker Plumbing & Rodding](#), and we'll get back to you ASAP! Please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).