



Starving Plumbers

Helpful Hints

There are many times in life when you think you have to make that dreaded call to a plumber, when in fact, you might be able to fix the problem yourself, or at least identify what caused it. Here is some foresight that may help you put that plumbing problem into hindsight, either by yourself or with that call to Starving Plumbers.

Water Leaks

So you just got your water bill and it's three times the normal amount. As you accurately surmised, you probably have a major water leak, unless unbeknownst to you a household member has suddenly started taking three hour showers three times a day.

Water leaks can occur anyplace in your plumbing system, from the meter by the street to the last irrigation head in the backyard, and everywhere in between.

If you notice a new pool in the front yard, and don't remember ever installing one, the water service line between the meter and the house is probably leaking. You can test this by turning off the main water shut-off at the house and then check to see if the water meter indicator needle is still moving. If so, the leak is from the water service or possibly from an irrigation system attached to it.

If during your test the meter stops moving, then the leak would be somewhere downstream of your house shut-off valve. Likely sources are running faucets, toilets, leaking water heaters or other appliances, or hot and cold water supply lines within the house. Other exterior water lines and irrigation systems could also be leaking.

If do-it-yourself plumbing repairs are not your cup of tea, you could still save money by having already identified the problem prior to calling Starving Plumbers. And if you can't isolate the leak sources, we can. Leak repair challenges are what we live for. That, and an occasional rib-eye.

Gas leaks

If you smell gas leave the house immediately and call the utility provider from a remote location. If it is absolutely safe to do so, and you know how to shut off your gas meter, you might also do that while you wait for the gas company. Do not turn on any electrical system component. Also, do not surrender to the urge to take up smoking because the gas situation has made you tense. Essentially, do not light any matches.

Starving Plumbers can pressure test your system and make the required repairs. We can also install earthquake shut off valves to stop the gas flow (and leaks) during an earthquake.



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Water-Saving Transformations

Saving water is smart from a budgetary standpoint, and is, of course, a socially conscious course of action, given the scarcity of water here in Marin. You can convert your house to a greener model of responsible water consumption in many ways, without impairing your quality of life:

1. **Toilets:** Older toilets waste huge amounts of water, compared to their modern 1.28 gallon per flush counterparts. In fact, old toilets can be one of the greatest sources of unnecessary water usage in your home. You may have heard negative reviews about some of the older generation water-saving water closets; the newer ones have been reengineered and are very effective. You'll find many different types and styles out there. If you'd like to give us a call, we can help you find the right match, including name brands like Kohler, American Standard, Toto and more.
2. **Hot water:** Tired of watching all that water go down the drain while you're waiting for the hot water to arrive? Fret no more. A solution is out there that can save you money and transform your life.

Several different types of hot water recirculating systems are available, which provide hot water instantly at your fingertips. Give us a call and we can explain the different options.

3. **Faucet reformation:** Old faucets and shower heads waste a lot of water, with no offsetting benefit. Older shower heads can use 2-3 times the amount of water compared to the latest generation. A few gallons of wasted water per minute during a 15 minute shower can add up fast over the course of a month.

Starving Plumbers can offer many cost-effective and attractive solutions to make you feel good about being the responsible, green Marinite you really are. Give us a call and we'll help you down the right path.

Water Filtration

Water filtration is a great way to deliver pure tasting water economically to your family, and at the same time avoid all the landfill waste created by plastic bottles.

We can install water filtration units either at a point of use, i.e. the kitchen sink, or at the main water source to serve the entire house. Many levels of filtration are available to address whatever level of filtration you desire.