



Tips To Help Save Money On Your Plumbing!

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Here's some helpful advice on how to save money on Plumbing from Australia's number one plumbing experts – The Plumbing & Electrical Doctor!

It's the same old story really – prevention is better than cure. The best way to save money on your plumbing is regularly check that everything is up to scratch.

There are a number of problem areas that are part of every home, and they can usually be maintained quite simply and at low cost. If you let things linger then there is a good chance that it is going to end up costing you more in the long run.

Let's start with your drains:

Drains

Do you have one or two problem drains? Let's guess – it's either your bathroom, or your kitchen? These are the usual suspects and the ones that need the most attention.

It's because of what goes down these drains that causes the problem. Hair, grease, food and foreign objects can all cause a small obstruction and then when other items can't get past that obstruction things start to build up – restricting flow and eventually leading to blockages. So, you need to clear that small obstruction before it becomes a problem.

In your bathroom if you don't already have drain covers or screens you should get them installed. Regularly check your plug holes for hair and other foreign matter and clear it. Don't try to wash it down the drain either because that will just cause a problem further down the line. Take it out and put it in the trash.

In the kitchen – if you are cooking with fats and grease avoid putting them down the drain. Instead let them solidify and then through them in the trash. If grease does end up in your drain, then run your hot water tap for 5 minutes afterward to make sure it clears. If you try to wash it down with cold water it may solidify and stay in your drain.

Don't:

- Use drain cleaners! The chemicals in drain cleaners can cause more problems than they solve, and if you aren't using the right drain cleaner for the job then it's not going to solve your problem at all. In addition to this, the chemicals are bad for the environment – and to the person inhaling them when they are pouring it down the drain.
- Stick wire down the pipe - unfolding a wire coat hanger, or using a stick to clear a block can damage your pipes and if that object gets stuck down there then you are going to have an even bigger problem of getting it out.

Water Pressure

Get your water pressure checked. While you may think that high water pressure is great for your showers, if it is too high then it can be causing all sorts of problems that you can't see, and also void warranties on appliances or plumbing fittings that you have in your home. Installing a pressure limiting valve as the water comes in to your property will ensure that the pressure never exceeds the acceptable levels, and should still provide you with enough pressure to run a couple of showers without noticing a big change.

Taps & Pipes

Frozen pipes aren't usually a problem in Australia, but if you live in an area that is prone to frosts or snow then make sure that any pipes that aren't in heated spaces are well insulated. Each autumn, when the weather turns colder, disconnect and drain your garden hoses, turn off the cut-off valve for your external taps, and open the



outdoor faucets to ensure they have drained. If there is no cut-off valve, consider installing one. Any water left in pipes exposed to below-zero temperatures will freeze.

If you notice leaks or rattles from your taps or pipes then get an expert out to take a look. A leak now could indicate high pressure, and if that causes your pipes to burst then you could be looking at an expensive clean-up bill.

Toilets

Leaking toilets can also be a sign of high water pressure so keep an eye out. Visible leaks or the sound of dripping water that can't be seen can mean damage to floors and the internals on your home. Get these checked – a good plumber should be able to spot the source of your leak straight away 90% of the time.

Hot Water Heaters

Not everyone is aware, but your hot water unit needs regular attention. There are multiple parts to your hot water heater that all work together to ensure you get clean hot water all of the time. Most manufacturers will recommend that you service your hot water system at least every 5 years – and some suggest replacing it after 10 years.

Water Saving Fittings

You can also save money on plumbing indirectly by replacing toilets, showerheads and faucets with new water-saving fixtures. For example, a new shower head may give you a stronger, steadier stream of water while still reducing water usage.

Plumbing Inspections

If you aren't sure about any part of your plumbing, or even if you know that something needs to be fixed, then you can get an inspection done on your home first. This will identify any problem areas and then at least you are aware of what needs to be done.

Book today!

The Plumbing & Electrical Doctor offers FREE plumbing inspections on every job that we do, and we will put together a list of no obligation options for us to fix any problems that we find. There is no pressure on you to go ahead with any of the work, but at least you will be armed with the knowledge to let you make a decision.

To book your appointment – call us today.