

# THE LIFECYCLE OF A PLUMBING SYSTEM

Plan for maintenance, repairs, and replacements.

This guide provides an overview of the average lifespan of key plumbing elements, common issues, and essential maintenance tips to keep your system running smoothly.

## Pipes



### Common Issues:

- **Corrosion:** Particularly in galvanized steel and copper pipes, leading to leaks.
- **Clogs:** Buildup of debris and mineral deposits.
- **Leaks:** Caused by wear and tear, corrosion, and joint issues.

### Maintenance Tips:

- **Regular Inspections:** Check for signs of corrosion, leaks, and damage.
- **Water Softening:** Install a water softener to reduce mineral buildup in pipes.
- **Professional Cleaning:** Have pipes professionally cleaned to remove buildup and prevent clogs.

### Average Lifespan:

- **Copper Pipes:** 50-70 years
- **Brass Pipes:** 40-70 years
- **Galvanized Steel Pipes:** 20-50 years
- **PVC Pipes:** 25-40 years



## Water Heaters

### Maintenance Tips:

- **Regular Flushing:** Flush the tank annually to remove sediment buildup.
- **Inspect Anode Rod:** Check and replace the anode rod every few years to prevent corrosion.
- **Check Temperature Settings:** Set the thermostat to a safe and efficient temperature.

### Average Lifespan:

- **Traditional Tank Water Heaters:** 8-12 years
- **Tankless Water Heaters:** 20+ years

### Common Issues:

- **Sediment Buildup:** Reduces efficiency and can cause damage.
- **Thermostat Failure:** Results in inconsistent water temperature.
- **Leaks:** Often due to corrosion or faulty connections.

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## Faucets

### Common Issues:

### Average Lifespan:

- **Kitchen Faucets:** 5-15 years
- **Bathroom Faucets:** 7-15 years

### Maintenance Tips:

- **Replace Washers and Gaskets:** Regularly replace these small components to prevent leaks.
- **Clean Aerators:** Remove and clean aerators to maintain water pressure.
- **Handle with Care:** Avoid excessive force on handles to extend their lifespan.

- **Leaking:** Due to worn-out washers, gaskets, or seals.
- **Low Water Pressure:** Often caused by buildup in aerators.
- **Dripping:** Typically a sign of internal wear.



## Toilets

### Average Lifespan:

- **Toilet Tanks and Bowls:** 15+ years
- **Internal Components:** 5+ years

### Common Issues:

- **Running Toilet:** Often caused by a faulty flapper or fill valve.
- **Leaks:** From the base or tank, due to worn-out seals or connections.
- **Clogs:** Resulting from improper use or buildup.

### Maintenance Tips:

- **Replace Washers and Gaskets:** Regularly replace these small components to prevent leaks.
- **Clean Aerators:** Remove and clean aerators to maintain water pressure.
- **Handle with Care:** Avoid excessive force on handles to extend their lifespan.