



Glossary of Plumbing Terms

Air Chamber/Shock Arrestor	Chamber or capped pipe filed with air to prevent water hammer.
Cleanout	A plugged opening to drain lines and some traps to facilitate removal of a blockage with a plumber's snake or auger.
Cross Connection	Any plumbing arrangement that allow flow between potable water and a contaminant, such as drain water, a gas, a chemical or even steam. Cross connections are found at boilers, lawn irrigation systems, between public and private water systems, at bidets, in toilet tanks, at bathtubs and more.
Effluent	Treated or partially treated sewage that flows out of a septic tank.
Siphonage	Vacuum action that can draw water out of traps if atmospheric pressure is not maintained.
Stack Pipe	A vertical section of pipe within the plumbing system that can provide for waste drainage, air flow or both.
Sweating	Condensation formed by moisture vapor in warm air coming in contact with a cold surface. Can also mean the joining of copper pipes with solder.
Trap	A water-filled U-shaped pipe that prevents gases and vermin from flowing into a building.
Vent System	Piping system that helps eliminate positive and negative pressure to prevent Siphonage blowouts.
Water Hammer	Sound made as water under pressure comes to an abrupt halt with-in a piping system often causing a pipe to whip or bang against the structure.

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