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Indoor plumbing

Indoor plumbing is a system of pipes that is in every modern day house, office building, and apartment building. Indoor plumbing may seem like a simple necessity that everyone has in their homes and schools but not everyone has indoor plumbing and at one point nobody had it. It allows us to go to the bathroom in our houses without the house smelling like feces. Also, it gives us running water in our sinks and washing machines. We use it everyday without really thinking about it, when we brush our teeth, wash our hands, wash the dishes, wash our clothes, etc. Its performance is typically ranked based on how well it gets rid of one’s waste, which is typically measured in units of pressure. Recently, this technology has not changed very much, it is really a simple mechanism that has been used in buildings for hundreds of years for the exact same purposes. In fact, the first example of indoor plumbing was recorded thousands of years ago in the civilization of Mesopotamia. There they had invented a crude form of indoor plumbing that used the idea of gravity to dispose of human excrement. That basic design slowly evolved into modern day indoor plumbing systems, the first of which was first implemented in 1840 in a hotel in England. In this hotel, there were chambers in the walls that were filled with water using a pump, then when a guest needed to flush, or wash their hands, they could access clean water from that chamber. This concept slowly evolved even further of the next century into what we know now as indoor plumbing. However, even in the nineteen forties, most people did not have running water in their homes. Indoor plumbing did not become prominent until the idea of a centralized city water system became popular. City governments began by burying pipes underground and running them to the first buildings and closest residential areas. Then they built a central water filtration and pumping station. This system slowly grew into the entire city making the first version of what we know now as widespread indoor plumbing. This does away with the need for out houses, outdoor water pumps, wells, and the collection of river or lake water. Personally, this technology has had a huge impact on my life overall. I could not imagine a world in which I would have to leave my house just to use the bathroom, or go down to a river every time I needed to wash my hands. Imagine a society win which waste could not be flushed, our cities would be overflowing with trash and human waste. We would have widespread epidemics due to living conditions and lack of convenient ways to sanitize oneself or to bathe on a regular basis. Society at large has benefited immensely from this somewhat trivial and simple system that most people do not bother to stop and appreciate because nobody from this day and age has ever had to live without it.

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