

PIPE TROUBLESHOOTING CHART

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Leaking pipe	1. Joint not watertight.	1. Tighten threaded joint, if possible. Apply epoxy paste to joint. Have a plumber disassemble and resolder sweat-soldered joint in copper pipe or tubing or cut out and replace joint in plastic pipe.
	2. Hole in pipe.	2. Repair by patching hole, using best available method, or replace section of pipe. If section is inaccessible, a plumber can disconnect it from system and route new section of pipe.
	3. Burst pipe.	3. Immediately turn off water at main shutoff. Repair or replace pipe or joint. Avoid electrical shock due to contact between electrical devices or equipment and water.
Pipe drips, but there is no leak	1. Condensation.	1. Apply insulation to pipe.
Noise in pipes—hot water only	1. Steam causing rumbling in hot-water pipes.	1. Turn down thermostat setting on water heater or replace thermostat.
	2. Pipe creaks against surroundings from expansion and contraction.	2. Rehang pipe on slip hangers or in larger notches or holes.
Water makes sucking noise when draining	1. Improper venting.	1. Clean roof vent. If there is no vent, add antisiphon trap.
Hammering noise when water is shut off	1. Air chambers waterlogged.	1. Shut off and drain supply line to allow air to reenter air chambers.
	2. No air chamber.	2. Install air chamber.
Banging noise while water is running	1. Loose pipe.	1. Track down loose pipe and brace, cushion, or strap it.
No water supply	1. Frozen pipes.	1. Open faucets. Start at closest point to faucet and work back.
	2. Main shutoff valve closed.	2. Open main shutoff valve.
	3. Broken or closed main.	3. Call water department.
	4. Well pump failure.	4. Check and repair pump.