

Q&A

ASK THE HOME INSPECTOR!

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Home & Building Inspections • Radon & Mold Testing



The following article is intended to provide pertinent home and building inspection information to the readers. Your input is welcome by emailing your questions to pat@hbponline.com.

Question: We have low water flow at the plumbing water lines inside our home. It was built in 1943, and we have already replaced the water line from the house to the street. Why is the flow still low?

Answer: Many older homes have galvanized pipes for water lines. It is likely that your home has them, and the low flow is probably due to mineral deposits that have formed on the inside of the pipes. These mineral deposits may be restricting the water flow. It will probably be necessary to replace at least a portion of the water lines to correct this.

You should replace them with copper piping instead of galvanized piping, as the mineral deposits do not collect on copper. The mineral deposits tend to collect first in the horizontal pipes and the hot water pipes. You should consider replacing these first to see if the flow increases. Your licensed plumbing contractor will be able to assist you in deciding which pipes to replace first.

Note: If the low flow is located only at one plumbing fixture, the water line shut-off valve may be bad or the aerator screen may be clogged. Check them first.

Go to our website at www.hbponline.com for more information about water flow, see our specials and order an inspection online.



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