

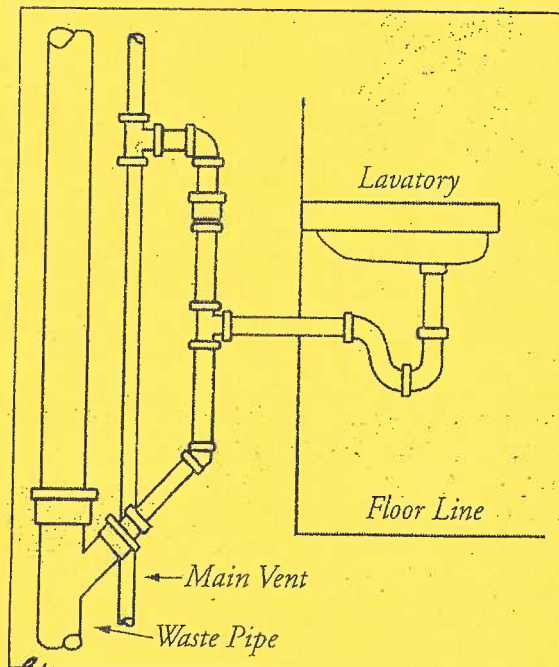
**A TO Z INSPECTIONS
COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL
JACK L WERNER, Ph.D. LIC. # 255
CALL 405-412-7861
NEWSLETTER**

**PLUMBING VENTS/WET VENTS
FROM OKLA HOME IMPROVEMENT AND REMODING MAGAZINE**

Plumbing vents are sometimes called wet vents; generally, each plumbing fixture has its own vent pipe. These pipes also often interconnect. The vent systems end at your roof. This is where replacement Air enters the plumbing system each time a fixture is asked to drain. You can spot them on the roofline as metal or PVC or ABS plastic pipes that project at least 6 inches above the roof.

An example of why they are needed: The water from the toilet drains down the pipe going to the sewer. Up ahead, it is pushing air that was in the pipe just before you flushed.

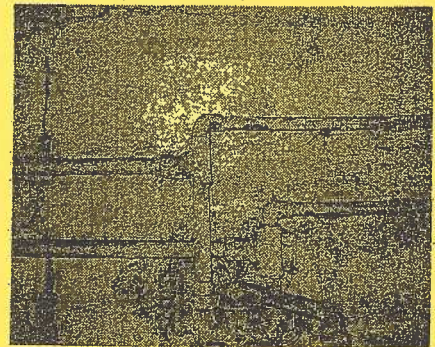
A vacuum forms behind the draining water, without a vent, the vacuum needs to replace the lost air, and it seeks out the path of least resistance. This siphoning action can pull water from the nearest appliance trap, and that's bad. Water must remain in the household plumbing traps; the seal they create stops offensive odors and prevents vermin from entering your home.



It is common to design plumbing systems so that all plumbing fixtures are interconnected to the same drainage system. The system may be thought of as analogous to a tree, with the various supply and drain pipes standing in for branches. The latter branches can drain one or more fixtures.

One other aspect of proper ventilation in a plumbing system is the traps themselves. Older installations may use non standard traps, such as the "S" trap and the $\frac{3}{4}$ "S" traps, or the extreme form of the "S" trap, the bag trap. These traps are almost impossible to ventilate properly, and the $\frac{3}{4}$ "S" trap forms a perfect siphon. Mechanical traps may counteract this behavior, but corrosive liquids in the system can corrode or jam them therefore, most plumbing codes prohibit mechanical traps. If your plumbing uses these nonstandard traps, consult a qualified plumber to replace them.

Building codes prescribe certain requirements regarding size, length and placement of plumbing vents; for instance, they must be installed so they continuously slope toward drain lines. It's important you keep them clog-free; debris in the pipes creates the same problems already described. Should you ever hear gurgling or bubbling in your pipes, a clogged vent pipe may be the culprit? Consult a qualified plumber to have it cleared.



Gurgling sounds? Time to call the plumber.

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