



# Comfortable **LIVING**

## Fall 2020

### The Basics of Mechanical Vents

In general, sanitary piping is passive. With the exception of devices like sanitary pumps, your home's drainage system is made up of nothing more than pieced together piping.

However, that piping system has to be done right or it won't work. Your sanitary pipework needs to be vented to allow the free flow of waste through the system. Otherwise, you can have slow drains, backed up toilets, awful (and hazardous) drain smells and flooding.

But what if your home's plumbing isn't done right? Do you have to break open walls and undergo major renovations to fix it?

The answer is: not necessarily.

#### Mechanical Air Vents

As the name suggests, Mechanical Vents allow air into the plumbing system. They are designed to open when the pressure drops in the sanitary system, preventing siphoning of water from p-traps. The valve closes if any sewer gases attempt to enter your home.

They are installed inside your house and must be either four inches above the p-trap arm

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# Joke Section

What did the tree say to autumn?

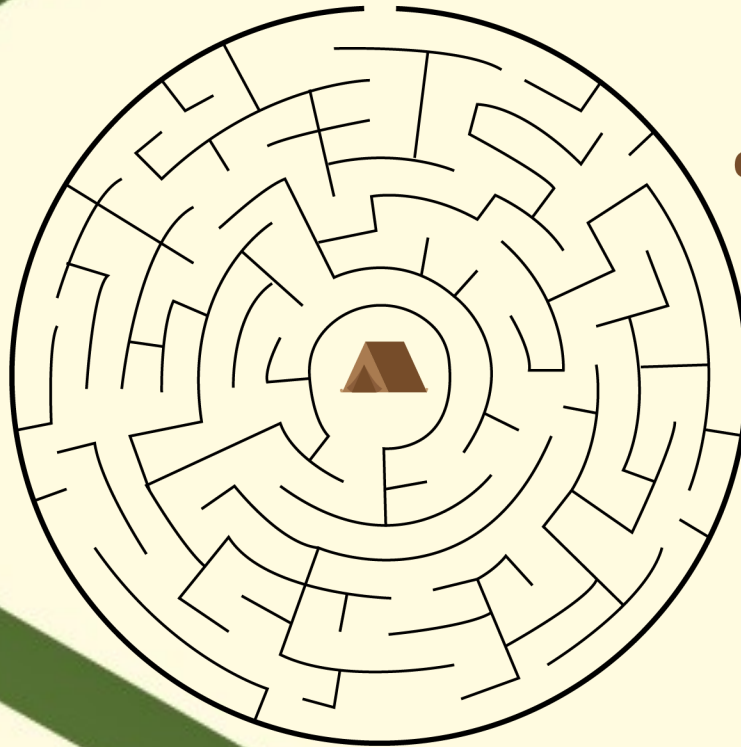
**LEAF me alone!**

What do plumbers have when they fall asleep?

**PIPE DREAMS!**

## THE AMAZING MAZE

Complete The Amazing Maze by creating your own path to the tent.



Answer Key:

## The Basics of Mechanical Vents

Continued from page 1

of the fixture or six inches above the flood level of the highest in a group of fixtures. Because they provide air for the sanitary system, it is important to ensure that they are not enclosed behind a wall.

### Are they actually needed?

Building codes require the use of vent stacks. As long as your home already has one or more needed vent openings to the atmosphere in the system, a mechanical vent is allowed for some fixtures. Always consult a professional to assess whether your situation allows it.

### Ideal uses and limitations

Traditional venting is by far the preferred option for venting. However, for items like kitchen islands or



fixtures being installed in a location where traditional vent piping would be difficult to route to the vent stack, mechanical vents offer solution. These devices cannot take the place of a vent stack through the roof and can still fail. You should only use them as a last resort for your sanitary system.

If you're dealing with a poorly vented sanitary system and want to find out if mechanical vents can help you, give us a call.



# CAMPING SAFETY TIPS



Camping is an amazing experience that makes memories for your family for many generations to come. To keep your memories positive, here are some basic safety tips when camping so you and your family can truly enjoy the experience.

## Don't forget the first aid kit...

... or your EpiPen or any other important medication. Packing for a camping trip can be so exciting (especially for kids) that you might leave without the most important items. Make sure critical meds as well as your first aid kit make it onto your packing list and into your car.

## Check the weather

Even if it's bright, sunny and mildly warm, this can change in a heartbeat. Continuously monitor the daily and extended forecast. Look out for major storms, temperature drops at night and extreme heat warnings and be prepared.

## Sunscreen

It's cold for most of the year, so it's time to feel the heat, right? Not so fast. Your skin still needs protection to avoid painful burns and other, more serious, long term issues.

## Insect repellent

So this one is probably already high on your list. Bug bites can turn your fun camping trip into a miserable experience. Research safe, effective repellents that work, especially if you have children.

## Know the area

Adventures in the bush are great but getting lost as night falls and darkness surrounds you isn't an adventure you want to have. Knowledge of wild animals in the area is also critical.

Learn how to handle an encounter without putting yourself at risk and avoid areas known for dangerous animals.

## Have an emergency plan

Don't venture into the woods without knowing what to do in case of an emergency. Plan your route to the nearest hospital and ensure that someone on the outside knows when to expect you back. By all means, disconnect from electronics but keep a phone on hand in case you absolutely need it.

## Food safety

Store food in containers that minimize risk of spoilage and consume everything within a reasonable time frame. Plan meals ahead, especially if you have health issues or allergies. If you choose to eat fruits from the forest, make sure you know exactly what you are eating. Don't be adventurous with this one. And place food in your vehicle or other safe place so as not to encourage any animal night visits.

## Stay hydrated

It might be inconvenient to have to go to the bathroom on a camping trip but that doesn't mean you should slow your fluid intake. Staying hydrated will limit the risk of heatstroke and other unpleasant side effects like dizziness, headaches and fainting.

## COUPON CORNER

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## Delicious Cinnamon Apple Chips



SOURCE: [www.delish.com/recipes](http://www.delish.com/recipes)

### Ingredients:

- 2 Apples, thinly sliced
- 2 tsp. Granulated Sugar
- 1/2 tsp. Cinnamon

### Directions:

- Preheat your oven to 200 degrees. In a large bowl, toss apples with sugar and cinnamon.
- Place a metal rack inside a rimmed baking sheet. Lay apple slices on top of the chosen rack, spacing them so that no apples overlap.
- Bake for 2 to 3 hours, flipping apples halfway through, until apples dried out but still pliable. (Apples will continue to crisp while cooling off.)

*These Cinnamon Apple Chips are made with just a few simple ingredients. Cinnamon and Sugar are a healthy snack your whole family will love!*