The World Health Organization

Tank type water closets emerge onto the
Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe
IAPMO, ICC and PHCC to form the Plumbing Efficiency
ASSE 1016 for compensating shower

2005-2015 the International Decade
organizations sign on: AWE, ARCSA, American Supply
PMI joins ASPE and IAPMO in founding the Plumbing
sanitation and world issues relating

Historical Note: most of the
Engineering (ASSE) issues standard

The International Code Council (ICC) is established
The United Nations (UN) declares

California issues a new law requiring toilets to use

NSF/ANSI 61 adds Annex G which
provide for the gradual conversion to WaterSense
content in potable water fittings.

PMI works with the Alliance for Water Efficiency,
plumbing manufacturing industry, by creating its

PMI advocates passage of the

EPAct'92 is revised to lower faucet flow rates to
all toilets and urinals sold in the state must be

PMI supports California efforts to encourage and

PMI works with state legislators as

The History of Plumbing—so far!
The creation of modern plumbing and its delivery of clean water and removal of waste is a cornerstone of our day-to-day life. The history of clean indoor toilets, in fact, is relatively recent, with evidence suggesting that toilets were not commonly used before the 18th century. In medieval Europe, simple facilities like a common hole or a bucket served as necessary but basic sanitation facilities. However, it wasn’t until the 16th century that the concept of indoor plumbing began to take shape.

1596: Paul C. Symmons invents the first compensating handle mixing faucet. This innovation prevented hot water from running cold, a common problem with early plumbing systems.

1652: Philadelphia becomes the first city to install a water tower, allowing for improved water pressure and distribution in the city.

1800s: The invention of the flush toilet by John Harington marks a major step forward in sanitation, allowing for the separation of human waste from living spaces.

1860: The United States Senate passes the Contamination Control Act, which requires the use of WaterSense fixtures for all new construction.

1870: Philadelphia becomes the first city to install a water tower, allowing for improved water pressure and distribution in the city.

1892: The city of Washington, D.C., installs a water tower, followed by other cities across the country.

1906: The world’s first drinking water treatment systems are built in Massachusetts to reduce turbidity and bacterial contamination.

1929: The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is established to protect public health and the environment.

1933: The Bilge Pollution Control Act of 1933 is passed, setting the stage for modern pollution control measures.

1937: The world’s first sub-station is established in New York City, providing electricity to the city.

1948: The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is established to protect public health and the environment.

1969: In consultation with PMI, Colorado adopts high efficiency plumbing standards for residential buildings, setting a precedent for other states.

1973: William E. Sloan invents the flushometer toilet, a significant advancement in toilet technology.

1974: In response to a growing demand for energy efficiency, the US Congress passes the Energy Policy Act of 1974, which requires the use of WaterSense fixtures for all new construction.

1988: The world’s first recycling plant is opened in Japan, marking the beginning of the modern recycling movement.

1990: PMI interacts with Plumbing Products Industry Group of Australia.

1991: The NSF/ANSI 61 standard is officially published, establishing a new standard for water treatment and distribution systems.

1992: EPAct ’92 officially goes into effect.

1993: PMI supports California efforts to encourage and promote the installation of WaterSense-certified products.

1994: The world’s first solar-powered water treatment plant is opened in California.

1995: PMI signs a MOU with the American Rainwater Catchment Association (ARCSA).

1996: The United States Senate passes the Lead Contamination Control Act, requiring the use of WaterSense-certified products for all new construction.

1997: The world’s first fully automated water treatment plant is opened in New York City.


1999: The world’s first solar-powered water treatment plant is opened in California.

2000: PMI signs a MOU with Plumbing Products Industry Group of Australia.

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