


RESTORING THE NATION'S AGING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE


Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) advocates for the restoration of the United States' underground water infrastructure to reduce risks to the safe and sustainable supply of drinking water. A restored water system will significantly reduce water main breaks, public safety hazards, and water shortages resulting from the current, aging infrastructure. PMI is a strategic resource for an evidence-based systems approach to this challenge.




Drought. Forecasters expect drought to affect 40 of 50 states within the next 10 years, making the saving of water currently lost through water main breaks and leaks essential.




D Grade. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave the U.S. drinking water system a D grade on its most recent *Report Card for America's Infrastructure*.



Lead. Unsafe levels of lead from water service lines can leach into drinking water, if water treatment and quality are not closely managed and monitored by water utilities. Some municipalities have removed or plan to remove all lead service lines, but it's an expensive and disruptive process.



Broken Water Mains and Leaks. Among the nation's challenges are 16% of installed water mains being beyond their useful life¹ and 1.7 trillion gallons of treated water lost to leaks annually.²



Waterborne Pathogens. Legionella and other pathogens can grow in water systems and cause disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opportunistic premise plumbing pathogens (OPPPs) are now the primary source of waterborne disease deaths in the United States. A growing body of evidence indicates that low flow rates may contribute to OPPPs, which are more likely to grow when water lies in pipes for a long time period.³

PMI IS DOING ITS PART

PMI members manufacture toilets, showerheads and faucets used at the end-point of the water system. These products rely on a sustainable supply of clean water to meet consumers' needs. Representing the manufacturers of 90 percent of the plumbing products sold in North America, PMI has often contributed its expertise and thought leadership on issues relating to water safety and sustainability. PMI was a leader in the development and passage of the bipartisan Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act. PMI also partners with the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program, which certifies and promotes the use of water-efficient plumbing products.

Sources: 1 Utah State University/Uni-Bell PVC Pipe Association; 2 United States Geological Survey; 3. Virginia Tech



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