

Water

The introduction of water-bearing pipework came about as early as the mid-1800s.
Cold water

The construction of Copenhagen's waterworks in the middle of the 1850s meant that the vast majority of apartments built thereafter were supplied with water from here. Initially it was available for kitchens and then later for flushing toilets as well. However, it would be some time yet before it became commonplace to fit water closets with a sink.

Hot water

The widespread availability of hot water came about with the installation of central heating systems. Having said this, there were still instances throughout the 1930s and 40s of central heating being installed without the simultaneous provision of hot water. Previous to this, hot water had to be generated by the individual dwelling. Particularly after the more widespread introduction of gas, it became normal for kitchens to be supplied with water heaters, followed by bathrooms some time later. Pipes for both hot and cold domestic water were always placed vertically and nearly always in plain sight until the 1960s, when they began to be concealed in shafts – preferably together with the drains.

Until the 1950s, the material used for piping was the same as that used for heating installations, except in a zinc-coated (galvanised) form.

Copper pipes then emerged, followed by stainless steel or plastic, and finally, as with heating installations, the use of conduit tubing as well.

Lagging of pipes – technical insulation – was carried out with felt and cardboard/canvas, although the felt was later replaced with rock- or glass wool. Another material used for insulation was kieselguhr reinforced with asbestos.

Note to Illustration 2. "Bathrooms" in the Gallery:

Only rooms with baths were considered bathrooms – or possibly those with sit-down bathtubs in smaller apartments. Also, note the design and placement of the mixing battery: not only does it serve both the bath and hand basin, a bucket can also be filled very easily. Placing pipes in shafts was attempted experimentally in the 1940s and, as is shown here to the right, for very sensible reasons: the shaft is accessible from the "dry" side at full height, and the pipes are placed in a row to be easily reachable from a reasonable distance. (Byggebogen, Kjærgaard (Ed.) 1948 et seq.)

