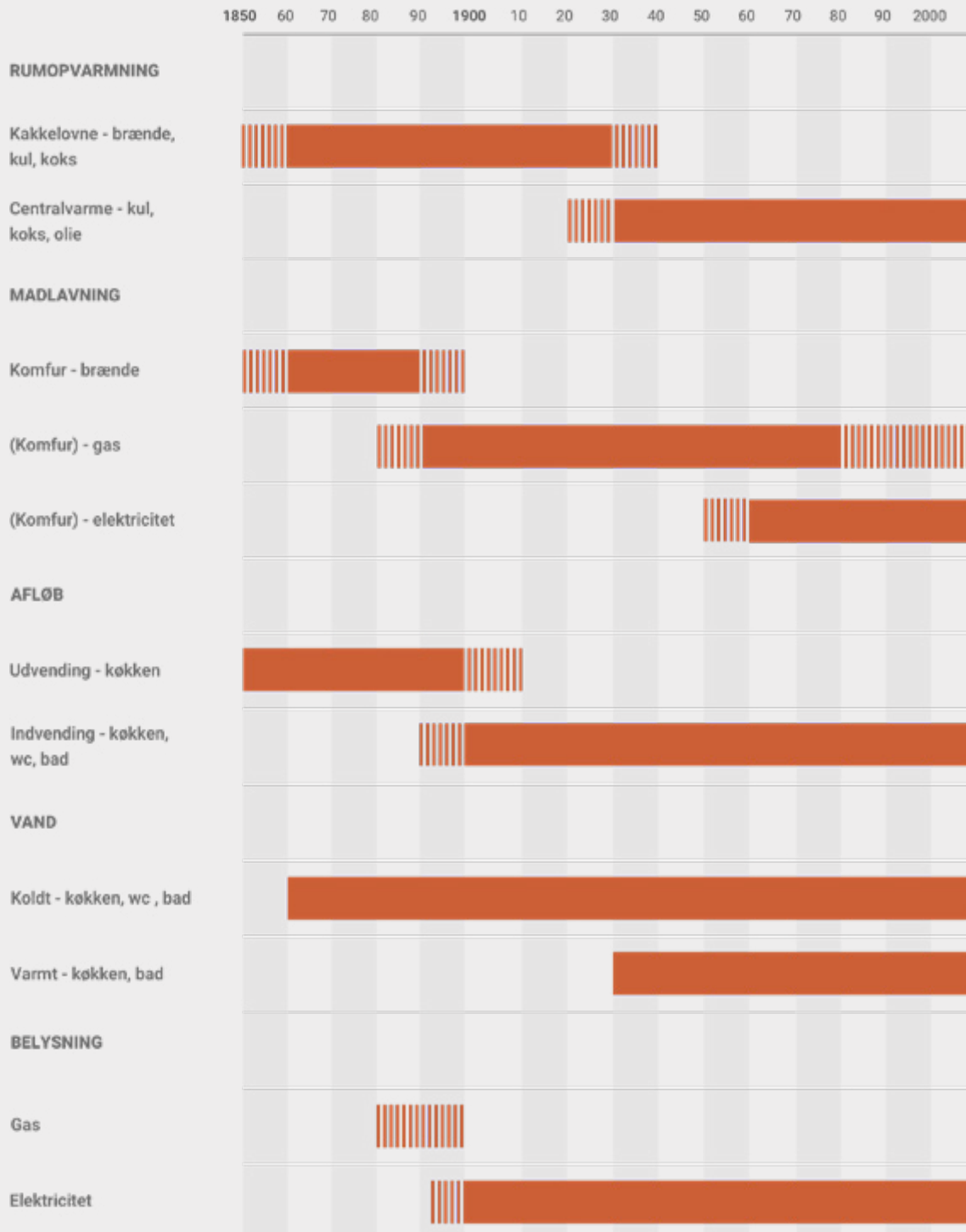


Utilities

Installations in multi-storey housing up to the middle of the 1800s, described in terms of our modern day understanding of utilities, were few. They can be described briefly as options for heating rooms and providing drainage from kitchen sinks.



The figure shows an overview of approximate temporal prevalence

Up to this point in time, a dwelling would usually have, as a minimum, provisions for preparing hot food and for keeping the place reasonably warm in cold weather.

The preparation of hot food was carried out on an open fireplace connected to a chimney flue (one per residence) that was large enough to be cleaned by one person crawling up and down its length. Such chimney flues were a general requirement when using fireplaces. Consequently, the heating of the dwelling was generally limited to heat coming from the kitchen fireplace, and possibly supplemented by stoves placed in adjoining rooms that were stoked from the kitchen fireplace and known as jamb stoves.

Water was fetched in buckets from private wells or the nearest public draw-off point. Even the simplest of kitchen conditions required, at the very least, a drain from the sink.

The drain from the sink was located externally and ended above ground, at which point an open gutter took the water away via an open sewer system that emptied into the nearest watercourse or the harbour. Anything beyond that and which is nowadays associated with normal housing standards was absent.

This situation changed significantly in the middle of the 1800s and the decades thereafter. The changes were partly determined by innovations of the time and partly as a result of legislation. Ultimately, the ability of manufacturers to produce cheaper goods was enormously instrumental too.

The laws relating to the construction of chimneys were relaxed. Sewage systems were buried below ground. Waterworks and gasworks were built, and by the end of the 1800s the first electricity-generating plants had arrived. The combined result a half-century later was a (potential) housing standard that corresponded, in principle, to that of today.

What follows is a brief description of the developments in new building work based mainly on Copenhagen conditions.

