

GET COOKIN' WITH GAS

Spring has arrived! (Hallelujah!) Warm weather beckons you outdoors for a barbecue. Family and friends gather on the patio. Music and laughter waft through the air. Drinks are poured. Fixings are prepped. The gas grill is hot and ready to—oh no! The grill is NOT hot. And now you're in a not-so-hot spot.

Ready to ditch that propane tank? They break, malfunction or simply run out of gas at the worst times. They're dirty, tough to transport, and a hassle to refill or exchange—wasting your precious time.

So, what does that have to do with your plumber? Well, plumbers are the pros who install and repair gas lines. (We're not just water experts.) And if you want your outdoor kitchen to really cook, let Cox Plumbing set you up with a dedicated gas line for your outdoor stove, grill, smoker or pizza oven.

Having a gas line installed is easy and not as expensive as you might think. You may even be tempted to consider it a DIY project, but unless you're a licensed professional, leave this one to the experts. Gas leaks may cause explosions and can even be fatal. With such a risk of damage or injury, doing it yourself is likely to cost more in the long run. Instead, rely on Cox Plumbing to do the job right:

Qualifications	Licensed and insured, our plumbing professionals ensure that permits and inspections are handled and that required building codes are met.
Equipment	We bring the right tools for the job, so we're ready to fix it—no matter what flows our way!
Expertise	We have the training and experience to solve problems big or small. When it comes to outdoor kitchen components, we know the issues to consider, from understanding yard surface conditions, to safely working with gas lines, to winterizing for Wisconsin weather.

Of course, you can't build an outdoor oasis without throwing in the kitchen sink! Naturally, we can expertly set up running water for that. Whether you're planning a custom-built kitchen, installing a pre-fabricated island, or just improving an existing setup, let Cox Plumbing handle your outdoor kitchen components.

And what else would complete the backyard space of your dreams? A grand outdoor fireplace with gas starter or a radiant patio heater with a dedicated gas line? Maybe you want a charming gathering place around a cozy firepit. Enjoy it even more, once we've added drainage below to let rainwater run through.

Call Cox Plumbing now—(262) 542-6921—to get your backyard patio ready for the season. Once you've experienced the friendly, reliable service from our family-owned and operated business, Cox Plumbing will be your plumbers for life!

HARD WATER, HARD DAY

It's another bad hair day. Your dry, lackluster locks have frazzled your morning routine. You attempt to dress for success but realize your favorite shirt is looking dingy these days and feeling rough as well. While tackling breakfast, you notice spots on your dishes. You grab a glass (hmm...also spotted) and pour some water from the faucet, which you see has developed a crusty white scale around it. You scratch your head—because that itches, too—and wish these issues would go away!

Why not solve all those problems at once? The simple solution to hard water woes is to let Cox Plumbing install a water softener in your home. Water softeners remove calcium and magnesium from the water supply, with noticeable benefits.

- Soft water eliminates mineral build-up inside pipes and appliances, reducing clogs and corrosion. Water-using appliances like the dishwasher, clothes washer, humidifier and hot water heater last longer and run more efficiently—saving you money.
- Soft water lathers up easily, so you'll save on soap or detergent while getting a better clean. You'll enjoy smoother, less itchy skin; silky, more manageable hair; and softer fabrics that hold their colors better.
- Soft water doesn't leave soap scum on shower doors, spots on dishes or limescale on faucets. You'll have a more beautiful home with fewer cleaning hassles.

If your water issues include rust stains in the sink or a rotten egg odor, Cox Plumbing recommends an Iron Curtain Filtration System, a patented, chemical-free treatment that removes iron and other contaminants like hydrogen sulfide. Unlike many other iron filters, the Iron Curtain is nearly maintenance-free, lasts far longer and comes in a wide range of system designs to accommodate any need—from a small home to a large business.

Let Cox Plumbing test your water quality and determine the best filtration system for your home or business. We have the expertise to handle the entire job and can make sure your water system is the most appropriate, efficient and well-maintained, providing the best, cleanest water for your needs.

Never again let hard water give you a hard day. Call Cox Plumbing at (262) 542-6921. Once you've experienced the friendly, reliable service from our family-owned and operated business, Cox Plumbing will be your plumbers for life!

HEALTHY WATER, HEALTHY LIFE

- Are you a dedicated, bottled-water drinker who scorns the taste of tap water? Maybe you want only crystal-clear ice cubes in the fancy cocktails you serve.
- Are you a health nut, seeking a lifestyle unharmed by chemicals and contaminants? Perhaps you're concerned about infants or elders in your care who are vulnerable to pathogens in the water supply.
- Are you a coffee snob looking for that perfect cup of flavor and aroma? Since coffee is 98% water, chlorine or other contaminants will unfavorably flavor your sipping experience. Get those out of the water, and you'll really taste the coffee!

Water—you drink it, cook with it, bathe in it, and use it for washing, gardening and pet care. Wouldn't it be reassuring to know that your home's water is pure—free from chemicals, microbial contaminants, excess minerals, and toxins? Worry-free water is possible with a reverse osmosis (RO) filtration system from Cox Plumbing. RO offers the highest standard of pure, fresh water for your home or business, with low costs, superior energy efficiency and minimal maintenance.

Although Wisconsin water supplies generally meet safety and quality standards, city water is purposely treated with chlorine, ammonia and fluoride. Some chemicals work to keep water clean, but it's best to remove them at the point of use, so you can enjoy healthier, better-tasting water. In addition, Waukesha's water supply has become increasingly contaminated with radium due to water depletion in its aquifers. Waukesha also has over 40,000 homes with private wells that are rarely tested for common issues like radium and bacterial contaminants. Why risk ingesting or bathing in water like that?

RO systems use a special membrane in combination with carbon filters to produce the best quality water. The advanced filtration method removes unwanted contaminants and eliminates nearly all water problems:

- Bad taste or odor
- Cloudiness
- Organic compounds (pesticides, herbicides, insecticides)
- Chlorine and THMs (industrial solvents or refrigerants)
- Bacteria and viruses
- Cysts (cryptosporidium) and parasites
- Heavy metals (arsenic, lead, iron, etc.)
- Dissolved solids (sodium, calcium, magnesium and other inorganic minerals)
- Unwanted elements (fluoride, radium, barium, selenium, etc.)
- Pharmaceutical contaminants (drugs, sunscreens)

Experience healthy water for a healthy life! Call Cox Plumbing at (262) 542-6921 for easy installation and maintenance of your RO system. Once you've experienced the friendly, reliable service from our family-owned and operated business, Cox Plumbing will be your plumbers for life!

In Hot Water...and Loving It

Waiting forever for your shower to heat up? Is it turning you into a hothead? Or have you (or a child) been surprised by scalding water from the tap? Maybe your water heater has turned musical—entertaining you with clicking or knocking noises, or a softly dripping leak. Does the annoyance have you ready to burst, while praying that your water heater doesn't? Generally, you want to avoid getting into hot water, but when it comes to hand- or dish-washing, bathing, and laundry, in hot water is exactly where you want to be!

The water heater that maintains your comfort and cleanliness requires maintenance itself. Unfortunately, for many of us, this workhorse is a forgotten component—a round tank tucked away in a dark utility room, basement or attic. Only when the shower goes cold or the floor floods beneath that heater, do we recognize our reliance on this important appliance.

So, are you planning ahead or planning for an emergency? (If you're waiting for the emergency, then keep our number handy! Call Cox Plumbing at (262) 542-6921.)

Annual maintenance by Cox Plumbing can keep your water heater running smoothly for its lifetime, usually 10-15 years. We'll drain the tank, remove any accumulated sediment or limescale, replace the anode rod if needed, and thoroughly inspect the whole operation, checking for leaks and ensuring that all parts (starter/regulator, valves, thermocouple, burner assembly, etc.) and connections are operating correctly. You'll be rewarded with evenly heated water, better energy efficiency and increased safety, plus a longer life for your water heater. Regular preventive maintenance is especially important for commercial plumbing systems, relied on by businesses, customers or tenants.

Some water heater issues can be fixed yourself; adjusting the thermostat or igniting the pilot light are two examples. Others are better left to the pros, especially when natural gas lines are involved. If you're not sure, let Cox Plumbing assist you with the right advice. Whether you need maintenance, a repair or replacement, just give us a call. By the way, if it's time for a new water heater, professional installation is a must. An amateur installation job can void a manufacturer's warranty and cause problems with venting, electric or gas lines, and water pressure.

For hot water on demand, demand the best. That's Cox Plumbing. Once you've experienced the friendly, reliable service from our family-owned and operated business, Cox Plumbing will be your plumbers for life!

GRINDING GARBAGE: Show your disposal a little love

You've just finished a lovely meal at home. You clear the dishes, scrape them in the sink, run the water, flip the garbage disposal switch, and...GRRR...RRRR...RRRR. It doesn't work.

That garbage disposal is a handy thing—when it's running well. Disposals clog a lot; they get misused; and cheaply made ones can't handle tough grinding jobs. Simple upkeep goes a long way toward peak performance, but disposals eventually wear out. (Normal life expectancy is eight to fifteen years.) Don't hesitate to call Cox Plumbing at (262) 542-6921. We'll repair or replace the unit as needed and get you back to your usual kitchen routine lickety-split.

Follow these tips to help your garbage disposal last longer and run problem-free:

- **FOOD SCRAPS ONLY, a little bit at a time.** Common myths say keep eggshells, coffee grinds, or fruit and vegetable peels out of the garbage disposal, but all those are fine when fed through in small amounts. Slice up peels and crush eggshells into pieces before sending them down the drain. Run plenty of cold water to flush it all through the pipes. Beware of soft foods that swell with water, such as pasta, beans, potatoes or rice. Again, run them through in small amounts with plenty of water. (Better yet – don't waste food!)

Non-food items can damage the blades and motor of a garbage disposal, so don't let glass, metal, plastic or paper fall into it. Finally, never reach in with your hands! Grinding blades can severely hurt your fingers, leading to horror film fright scenes.

- **NO GREASE, OIL OR FAT, and run cold water.** NEVER put grease, oil or fat down the kitchen sink. While liquid when warm, these will cool, harden and collect on pipe walls, leading to blockages. Use cold water to flush food waste and run it for 15-30 seconds after using the disposal to clear any remaining debris.
- **KEEP IT CLEAN.** Use a little dish soap and cold water, or vinegar and baking soda to remove build-up and keep smelly odors away. Regularly run ice cubes through the disposal to clean it and sharpen the blades.

Proper use and care of your garbage disposal will extend its life and should keep it running. However, if it's not working and a simple push of the reset button doesn't do the trick, call the professionals at Cox Plumbing. Once you've experienced the friendly, reliable service from our family-owned and operated business, Cox Plumbing will be your plumbers for life!