

**PLUMBING CATECHISM:  
OR, THEORY AND PRACTICE  
OF PLUMBING DESIGN IN  
QUESTION AND ANSWER**

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Plumbing Catechism: Or, Theory and Practice of Plumbing Design in Question and Answer by  
Charles B. Ball & H. T. Sherriff

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**CHARLES B. BALL & H. T. SHERRIFF**

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# A PLUMBING CATECHISM

OR

## THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PLUMBING DESIGN

IN

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

BY

**CHAS. B. BALL**, *M. Am. Soc. C. E.*

Member American Society Inspectors of Plumbing and Sanitary Engineers  
Formerly Chief Sanitary Inspector Tenement House Department, New York

AND

**H. T. SHERRIFF**, *A. B., Editor of Domestic Engineering.*

Member American Society Inspectors of Plumbing and Sanitary Engineers

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## PREFACE

**I**T has been the purpose of the authors in compiling this book to so formulate the basic principles of plumbing design and practice as to crystallize the knowledge of the skilled plumber and provide to the non-technical reader a source of information on this subject as free as possible from the puzzling set phrases of the craft.

Recognizing the fact that manual skill in the practice of the art may not be acquired from the printed page, the discussion of matters relating solely to handicraft, such as joint wiping, lead burning, etc., purposely has been omitted.

To adapt the book to the needs of those who have occasion to examine plumbers as to their competency the Socratic method of question and answer, having manifest advantages, has been chosen.

Specific criticism of any answers here given will be welcomed.





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# A PLUMBING CATECHISM

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THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PLUMBING DESIGN  
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## PLUMBING FIXTURES.

**What is a plumbing fixture?**

A plumbing fixture is a fixed sanitary appliance provided with a water supply and having a sewer connected waste. This definition will include as fixtures, besides water closets, sinks, etc., refrigerators, bar sinks and dentists rotary cuspidors.

It will exclude condensing tanks and exhaust heads, floor and area drains, unless the latter are provided, as is sometimes done, with a constant water supply.

**What considerations should control the choice of plumbing fixtures?**

Plumbing fixtures should be selected with due regard to their simplicity, efficiency, cleanliness, durability and relative cost.

(a) Simplicity. Complicated mechanism and intricate form are out of place. The design of valves and plugs, supports and connections as well as the fixture itself, must be plain and simple.