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Watco Manufacturing Company

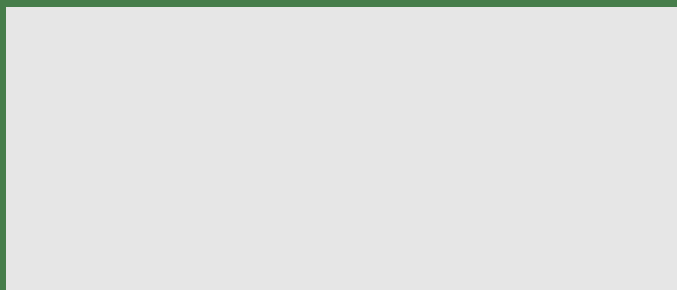


The “Watco System” - A Family of Quality Bath Waste Products

Product Focus: Kitchen & Bath

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The “Watco System” - A Family of Quality Bath Waste Products

The “Watco System” - A family of quality bath waste products that results in lower total-installed, walk-away costs with a dramatic reduction of call-backs.

In order to be successful in today’s competitive market, plumbers have to continually evaluate the “A” items on a project: water heaters, fixtures, pipe, faucets, etc. They occasionally look at the “B” items on a job, but the “C” items are rarely, if ever, evaluated.

Watco Manufacturing Company primarily focuses on producing a niche “C” item that is sometimes overlooked by many plumbers - bath wastes. A bath waste consists of a strainer body, stopper, an overflow plate, and the pipe and fittings required to install it.

Bath wastes were a fairly static product for many decades, with very few, if any, innovations. The common thought was that a “bath waste was a bath waste;” that all bath wastes are basically the same. However, in the last 5-10 years, the bath waste market has begun to change rapidly as most major metropolitan areas began to require complete testing of the drain, waste, and vent system (DWV). This required that the plumber seal, with caps and plugs, the entire DWV system in order to test it with water or air.

Capping and plugging the bath wastes posed a challenging field problem. There was no easy, simple way to do this. Most plumbers resorted to using a test ball on the stack and not connecting the p-trap on the bath waste until after testing. After the test, the plumber had to return to the jobsite and hook up the p-traps, hopefully getting there before the drywall contractor had finished his job. This left the bath waste

un-tested, but in most cases, resulted in passing a test of the DWV system.

Test kits for bath wastes began to arrive on the market, but they still were difficult to use. The test kit for the overflow usually consisted of a test plug and adapter bar, along with three screws. Not only were they time-consuming to install, the parts and pieces were easily dropped and lost as they fell down the drain hole in the tub. This resulted in a trip back to the shop, then back to the jobsite to replace the lost pieces.

A New and Innovative Way of Installing Bath Wastes

In 2002, Watco introduced a quick, easy way to install a testable bath waste. Instead of offering a test kit consisting of many parts requiring time-consuming assembly by the plumber, a revolutionary membrane was developed. This membrane is factory-sealed to the overflow elbow and factory-tested to make sure it will hold pressure. It will hold up to 22 PSI, which will allow a plumber to test up to 50 feet, or five 10-foot floors. The overflow elbow is ready for testing right out of the box, with no set-up time required by the plumber. A quick and easy-to-install drain plug is provided with this bath waste to complete the test kit.

As Watco engineers developed the test membrane, a new way of installing the overflow elbow evolved. Instead of using a standard one or two-screw elbow and overflow plate, a male, threaded overflow elbow was designed. This new elbow is self-centering, self-aligning, and self-sealing. The only way to install it is through the overflow hole on the tub, unlike regular one or two-screw overflow elbows where misalignment resulting in leaks is a common

problem. It requires no screw or tools; you install the elbow using a retainer nut, which is threaded onto the overflow elbow and hand tightened only. There are not a lot of parts to drop and lose. The retainer nut, even if dropped, is too large to go through the hole in the tub like screws can easily do.

The Watco overflow elbow uses a soft, pliable gasket that molds itself to the curvature and slope of the tub as the plumber installs the retainer nut. It installs in the same exact way every time, regardless of the shape of the tub. Regular bath wastes usually have a harder rubber gasket that results in a “trial and error” installation process. A lot of plumbers get so frustrated trying to get the hard rubber to seal against the surface on different tubs that they just go ahead and caulk to eliminate leaks. The caulk just covers up a problem that usually shows up after several years of expansion and contraction, resulting in leaks.

After the system is tested, you simply and quickly cut or punch out the membrane. The membrane is a bright orange



The 900 Innovator® Series testable half-kit: 1. Overflow elbow installed and ready for testing. 2. Membrane is easy to remove. 3. Overflow plate snaps on.

Cover Story

color so it is easily noticeable. Once the membrane is removed, the overflow plate just snaps on, no screws to deal with or tools required. It is easy, quick, trouble-free, and simple. Traditional one or two-screw overflow plates can easily be scratched with a screwdriver when installing the screws. This results in the need to replace the overflow plate, which can be very expensive, particularly with special finishes. Screws can be damaged when installing them with powered screwdrivers, which can leave a burr where children can injure themselves. Watco's new snap-on overflow plate eliminates all these potential and costly problems.

This new product from Watco is the 900 Innovator® Series. It has been rapidly accepted by plumbing contractors because of the ease and speed of installation, along with the elimination of almost all field problems associated with installing and testing the bath wastes on a job. The introduction of the 900 Innovator® Series bath waste was the beginning of the development of the "Watco System".

The 900 Innovator® Series is available with the following options:

- Schedule 40 PVC & ABS, Tubular Brass, and Plastic
- Full kits (with the pipe and sanitary tee)
- Half kits (pipe and sanitary tee provided by the plumber).
- Stoppers – Lift & Turn, PUSH PULL®, Foot Actuated, and PRESFLO®
- Finishes - Aged Pewter, Brushed Bronze, Oil-Rubbed Bronze, Wrought Iron, Brushed Chrome, Brushed Nickel, Pearl Nickel, Polished Nickel, Polished Brass, Polished Chrome, White, Bone, and Biscuit.

Watco also provides the option of ordering each unit broken down separately into Rough-In kits and Stopper-



The complete 900 Innovator® Series bath waste.

Faceplate kits. The Rough-In kits provide everything that the plumber needs to install the basic bath waste and set it up for testing, including the strainer body. The Stopper-Faceplate kits include the stopper and the overflow plate or faceplate. This allows the plumber to keep the trim in his truck or shop until he needs them to trim out the job. This eliminates the problem of having to replace a lost or damaged overflow plate and stopper, which can be quite expensive, especially with special finishes. This also allows the plumber to provide brand new trim to the owner, rather than trim that looks like it has been on a jobsite for six months.

The Watco System Expands

The tremendous success and acceptance of the 900 Innovator® Series has led to the development of an entire product line based on the Innovator testable concept, the "Watco System." The following products have been introduced over the last few years, enhancing the total installed-cost savings to the plumber:

QuickTrim™ Kits

A complete standard trim kit includes not only a stopper and overflow plate, but a strainer body. The strainer body is threaded into the drain elbow, and unlike the stopper and overflow plate, it must be installed during the rough-in phase of the job. Tubs are often used as a dumpster on a jobsite. All kinds of liquids are poured into them as a quick waste receptacle. This can damage the finish on the strainer body, requiring it to be replaced.

Most plumbers usually install chrome during the rough-in phase of the job, even if they know the job requires a special finish. Special finishes are expensive to re-purchase, so chrome, which costs much less, is installed. When a homeowner decides to upgrade to a special finish, the plumber has to remove the chrome strainer body and replace it.

Replacing a strainer body poses many problems. First, the threaded joint between the strainer body and the drain elbow has been tested and proven reliable. When you remove the strainer body, you break the seal and lose the integrity of the test. Strainer bodies are metal and have male threads. Most drain elbows are plastic with female threads. When replacing a strainer body, it is very easy to cross-thread, which often results in a leak, possibly requiring cutting through the sheet rock



Repair a damaged strainer body or upgrade to a special finish in seconds with QuickTrim™.

and replacing the fitting. Also, if there is any stress on the joint, when you remove the strainer body, the fitting moves out of line, making it almost impossible to re-thread another strainer body in correctly.

To eliminate all these potential problems, Watco developed QuickTrim™ kits. QuickTrim™ kits provide a strainer body cover in place of a standard strainer body. The strainer body cover is stainless steel and is available in polished chrome, along with the complete line of Watco special finishes. The strainer body cover is 3/100ths of an inch thick and does not increase the height of the flange to the point it would create a water dam. It comes with two o-rings to tightly fit the two different size coarse-thread strainer bodies provided with Watco bath wastes. With Watco QuickTrim™ kits, the plumber will never need to remove and replace a strainer body again. If the chrome strainer body is damaged, or you need to upgrade to a special finish, QuickTrim™ kits will allow you to do it in a matter a minutes.

WatcoFlex®

The WatcoFlex® is a customized, pre-fabricated complete bath waste that is designed to fit a specific tub. It comes sealed and tested from the factory and is warranted for five years from the date of installation. It arrives at the jobsite ready to install in minutes, eliminating



The WatcoFlex® is a completely pre-fabricated bath waste that installs in 2-3 minutes.

all measuring, cutting and fitting. The WatcoFlex® is ideal for high-volume jobs where the plumber knows the exact tub he will be using (apartments, condos, hotels, motels, and track homes where tub upgrades are not an option for the homeowner).

The WatcoFlex® uses a special flexible tubing that is friction welded, not glued. It eliminates four 1-1/2 inch, schedule 40 solvent-weld field joints, resulting in significant installed-cost savings. It is designed with a direct drain layout, which can be easier and faster to install, using fewer fittings. It comes with the Innovator® overflow. The WatcoFlex® is available in either PVC or ABS and is IAPMO approved.

Flex 900 Innovator® Series

With standard bath wastes, misalignment is a common problem. Usually one crew installs the underground, the carpenter frames the building, another crew handles the general DWV rough-in, and another crew sets the tub. The drain pipe, the walls, and the tub need to line up perfectly to have a smooth installation. Many times this does not happen, and the plumber has to use offsets between the sanitary tee and the overflow elbow to install the bath waste. He usually uses two 45 or 22½ degree elbows, which require an additional four 1-1/2" schedule 40 field joints. It is difficult to measure the small piece of pipe between the offsets, and it normally takes a trial and error effort to install. Some plumbers report that this problem occurs over 50% of the time. This is especially common on slab construction.

Watco introduced the Flex 900 Innovator® Series to address these issues. This is identical to the standard 900 Innovator® Series except flexible tubing is used in place of rigid PVC pipe on the overflow extension. The drain extension remains rigid PVC pipe. The overflow elbow is factory-sealed to the flex tubing. The flexible tubing/sanitary tee joint is left for the contractor to cut and fit in the field utilizing standard



The Flex 900 Innovator® Series compensates for misalignment without installing extra fittings.

PVC installation procedures. This unit compensates for misalignment and allows the bath waste to be installed around joists. It will also eliminate the need to use fittings for offsets. Enough flexible tubing is provided to compensate for major misalignment. For a small amount of misalignment, the plumber will need to cut the flexible tubing to fit correctly.

The Flex 900 Innovator® Series comes in two sizes: the FLEX916 is for standard tubs and comes with 16" of flexible tubing. The FLEX924 is for whirlpool baths and comes with 24" of flexible tubing. The Flex 900 Innovator® Series is available in PVC only and is IAPMO approved.

Complete Shipments

Watco Manufacturing is highly focused on producing bath waste products that solve real-world problems for the plumbing contractor. Getting the products when and where you need them is a huge part of the equation. Watco is dedicated to shipping quickly; most orders are shipped complete in one to two working days from the plant in Independence, Missouri.

For more information call 800-821-8576 or visit www.watcomfg.com.