THE BASICS OF CORE PLUMBING LAYOUT

WHAT? 

Traditional hot water distribution systems consist of a trunk and

branch layout which entails a relatively long, large-diameter

main line feeding smaller branches that flow to plumbing

fixtures or split to serve multiple fixtures. This design can lead to

higher energy bills, wasted water, and wasted time for the

occupant.

WHY? 

Even in relatively small homes of 1,200 square feet, the volume

of water in the pipes to the furthest fixture can exceed 1.5

gallons and the time to the tap can be more than 90

seconds. Letting the water flow until it is at the desired

temperature can waste 3 gallons of water uses enough energy

to power a 60-watt light bulb for 12 hours.

HOW? 

A core plumbing layout for hot water distribution is a building

designed so that all rooms using water (e.g., kitchen,

bathrooms, and laundry room) are placed in close proximity to

the water heater. This results in hot water piping to each

plumbing fixture and appliance in as direct a path as possible.

The more direct the route the less wasted water and quicker

time to tap.