

Materials used in plumbing

1 Steel

Look at the photos.
What are these things and what are they made of?
Use words from both boxes.

Cast iron is easy to shape, but it breaks easily and it rusts. The three types of steel in the list below don't break easily and they don't rust. This makes them popular plumbing materials for bathrooms and kitchens.

- stainless steel
- galvanized steel
- chrome-plated steel

- kitchen sink • pipe fitting • public toilet washbasin • screw •
- water pipe • adjustable pipe wrench • shower head •
- mixer taps • towel rail • water tray



2 Copper, bronze, brass and plastic

Listen to the CD. Which words from the box go with these materials? Make a list like this into your exercise book.

- cheap • expensive • flexible •
- hard • long-lasting • rust-free •
- soft • water-resistant • weak

Copper	Brass/Bronze	Plastic
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3 Cast iron

These things are made of cast iron.

What are they?

Label the illustrations.

Iron is cheap and it's a perfect material for casting. Casting is a process where the molten iron is poured into a mould. This is a cheap way of producing things with simple shapes. These products are very robust and last for a long time.

drainage grate • drainage pipe • manhole cover •
pipe connector • pump housing • radiator



4 Fittings

Read this text and label the illustrations with the marked words.

To fit things such as a **stopcock**, a **tap**, or a **U-bend trap** you will need an **adjustable pipe wrench**. To join a **pipe fitting** onto a **pipe** with a thread you will need two pipe wrenches – one to hold the pipe and the other to turn the fitting.

