

## Glossary

**Brass:** An ancient alloy, composed primarily of copper and zinc, used in the manufacture of faucets and other plumbing fittings. Small amounts of other alloying materials are also added for various types of brass to address the requirements of specific applications. Brass is also the term for a faucet finish, also known as polished brass.

**Copper:** One of the basic elements (Cu), copper is used for plumbing piping, and is one of the alloys used to make brass, a key material in the manufacture of faucets and fittings.

**Flush valve:** Located at the bottom of a toilet tank, the flush valve discharges the water from the tank into the bowl when the toilet is flushed.

**Leach:** In the case of plumbing systems, leaching refers to the process of dissolving a soluble component out of a constituent material at a wetted surface. Materials commonly leached into drinking water from water distribution systems include copper, lead, and nickel.

**Potable water:** Water that is satisfactory for drinking, culinary and domestic purposes.

**Valve:** A fitting with a movable part that opens or closes one or more passages and thereby allows a liquid flow to be started, stopped, and regulated. In plumbing, valves are used in faucets and showers, and can be called mixing valves because they control the mix of hot and cold water to achieve desired water temperatures.