Jan. 25, 1949. H. GRUEN 2,460,005

PLUMBING FIXTURE

Filed March 11, 1947

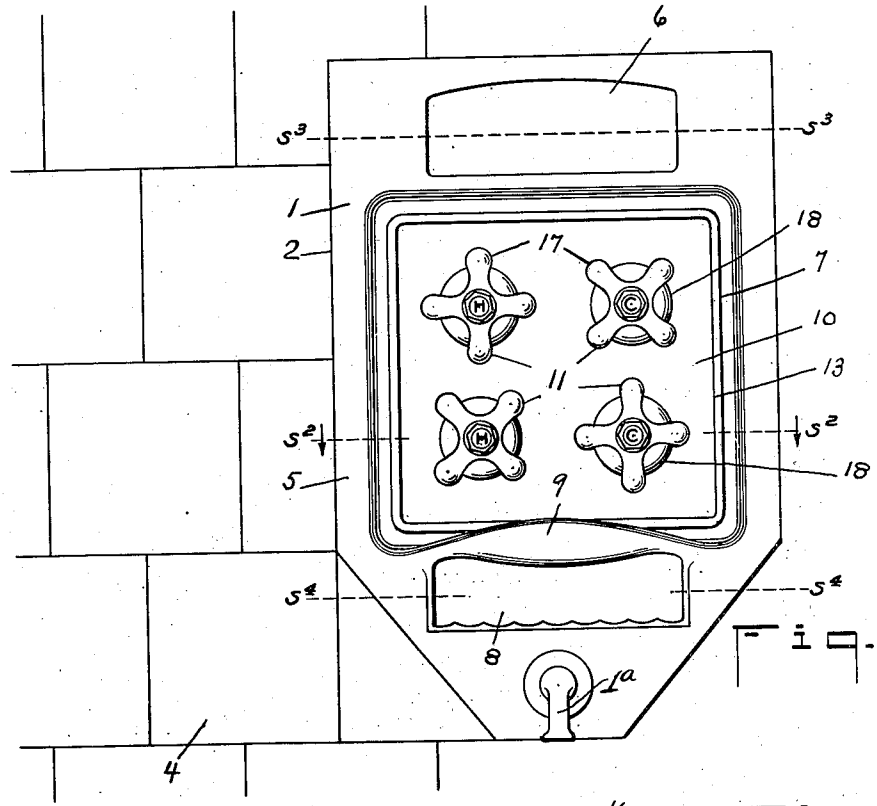


Fig. 1.

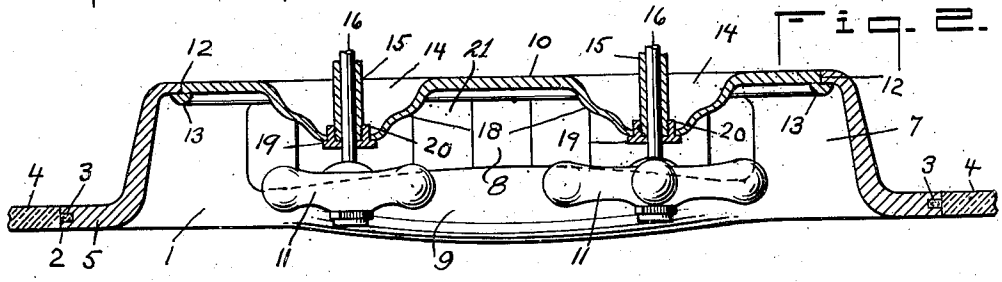


Fig. 2.

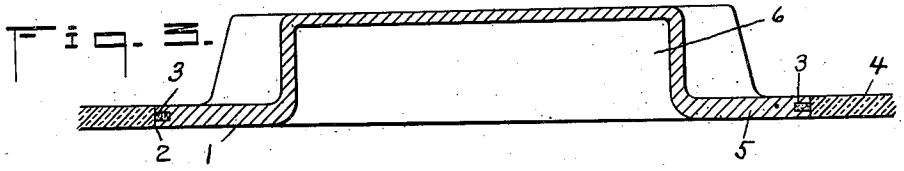


Fig. 3.

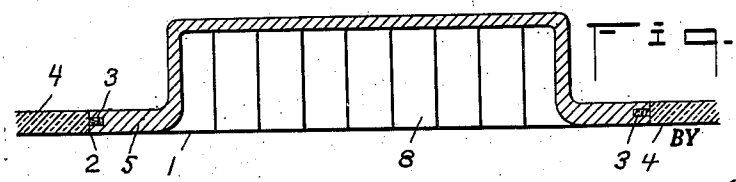


Fig. 4.

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Patented Jan. 25, 1949 2,460,005

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,460,005

PLUMBING FIXTURE

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Application March 11, 1947, Serial No. 733,968

3 Claims. (Cl. 4—191)

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The invention relates generally to plumbing fixtures and more particularly to a prefabricated wall insert unit for a bathroom, which provides utility compartments for soap and bathing accessories and serves as an open front housing for an assembly of valve handles that controls the supply of hot and cold water for the tub and shower, both the unit and the handle assembly therein, being inset so as not to project beyond flush relation with the outer surface of the wall.

The primary purpose and object of the invention is to obviate the danger of injury from projecting faucets and their handles in or about the tub and at the same time, make them conveniently accessible for operation by the persons using the tub or shower.

A further object is to provide a complete assembly of bath conveniences and accessories in a fixture, that may be set and bonded as a unit, in a single wall recess, flush with the outer surface of the wall, and which may be thereafter removed in part to give access to valves, pipe connections, etc., for purposes of inspection and repair, without breaking or otherwise disturbing the bond.

The unit is preferably formed as a two-part porcelain-lined casting, the main part of which is set and suitably secured in the wall recess as a permanent fixture and, in addition to providing an inset open front housing for the valve handles of the water supply, has utility compartments formed in part with it. The other part of the casting carries the valve handle assembly and is removably secured in an opening of the main casting and provided around the edge with an ornamental bead that overlaps the edge of the opening and, in concealing its outline, gives an effect to the joined parts of a single casting.

Other features of the invention not specially mentioned above, will be brought to attention in the detailed description that follows.

The accompanying drawings will serve to illustrate a unit construction suitable for carrying the invention into effect but it will be understood that no limitations are intended by this showing other than are imposed by the appended claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows the unit in front elevation as it appears when secured and bonded in a recess of a tiled wall of a bathroom.

Fig. 2 is a horizontal cross section through the unit, on the line s^2—s^2 of Fig. 1, and

Figs. 3 and 4 are similar views respectively on the lines s^3—s^3 *and* s^4—s^4, of Fig. 1.

Referring now to the drawings, the unit 1 is

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shown suitably secured to the wall studding or otherwise, in a recess 2 in the wall of a bathroom and at a height above the tub (not shown) to be within convenient reach of a person sitting or standing therein.

Throughout the outer edge of the unit, a groove 3 is formed to receive cementitious material by which the grooved edge of the unit is permanently bonded, in flush relation to the wall facing 4 of tile, plaster or other material.

The unit may be given any geometrical form in outline but is preferably shaped as shown to save time and labor in cutting and fitting the tile, which are commonly used as the wall facing.

In the present embodiment of the invention, the unit is shown as a two-part casting and may be given a porcelain glaze or any other finish desired.

The main casting includes a frame member or escutcheon indicated at 5, providing three open front compartments of suitable depth, the upper one 6, serving for toilet accessories, the middle one 7, as a housing for a valve handle assembly, by which the water supply for the tub through the spout 1*a* and for the shower is controlled and the lower one 8, for soap, brushes and the like.

The upper wall of the lower compartment is cut away in the rear as shown at 21 in Fig. 2, to provide clearance, and the forward portion is thickened and rounded, as indicated at 9, for use as a handhold, within convenient reach of a person using the tub.

Forming the second part of the unit, there is a plate 10, which carries the valve handle assembly 11, and is removably fitted in an opening 12 of the main casting 5. The plate is provided with a projecting bead 13 around the edge, that overlaps and conceals the edge of the opening and, in addition to being ornamental, in outlining the plate as a panel, gives the unit the finished appearance of a one-piece casting.

Openings 14 are formed in the plate for the passage of tubular extensions 15 from the valve casings (not shown), which loosely enclose the inner portion of the valve stems 16. The outer ends of the valve stems project beyond the tubular extensions for the attachment of the handles 17, which are removably secured thereto in any well known manner. Four valve handles are shown which, through suitable pipe connections (not shown), cooperate in pairs, in the usual manner, to supply hot and cold water to the tub and shower. While the valve handles are compactly assembled on the plate 10, they are spaced apart sufficiently for convenient manipulation separately.

Constructed as above described, the handle assembly does not project beyond flush relation with the outer surface of the room wall.

Formed in part with the plate 10 and projecting outwardly therefrom, as continuations of the openings 14 in the plate, there are bell-shaped sleeves 18, which serve as ornamental casings for the tubular extensions 15. The bell-shaped casings extend to or slightly beyond the outer ends of the tubular extensions and are engaged by flanges 19 of tubular nuts 20, which are threaded in or on the ends of the extensions.

By screwing the nuts down on the tubular extensions, the pressure exerted by the flanges thereof on the bell-shaped casings, will force the plate 10 into the opening 12 of the main casting until the beaded edge of the plate comes to a solid bearing on the casting, and hold it securely clamped in position.

To gain access to the valves and pipe connections back of the unit, it is only necessary to take the handles off the valve stems and unscrew the tubular nuts and plate 10 can be bodily removed, thereby clearing the opening 12 in the main casting and exposing the piping, etc., through the opening.

As the construction and many important advantages of the invention will be apparent from the foregoing, it will not be necessary to further describe the same.

I claim:

1. A plumbing fixture for a bathroom comprising a recessed unit adapted to be set into a wall recess of a room above a tub to provide an open front housing for an inset handle assembly of the water supply pipes, said unit including an escutcheon member adapted to be secured within said wall recess in substantially flush relation to said wall, and a removable rear wall portion inset rearwardly from the plane of the escutcheon member and carrying a valve handle assembly including means for removably securing said rear wall portion within said escutcheon member to give access to the rear of the unit.

2. The plumbing fixture described in claim 1 wherein the removable wall portion of the unit carrying the valve handle assembly is provided with integral forwardly extending conical sleeve-like projections that are adapted to encircle and conceal the inner portion of the valve stems to which the handles are attached.

3. A plumbing fixture for a bathroom comprising a recessed unit adapted to be set into a wall recess of a room above a tub to provide an open front housing for an inset valve handle assembly of the water supply pipes, said unit including an escutcheon member surrounding said valve handle assembly housing and including top and bottom front flange portions extending respectively above and below said housing, and means carried by said escutcheon member defining an auxiliary compartment rearwardly of each of said flange portions, said flange portions each being provided with an access opening communicating respectively with said compartments, the upper wall portion of the lower compartment being cut away rearwardly of its front flange member to provide an opening into said housing, said front flange member adjacent said cut away portion being contoured and thickened to provide a hand hold.

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