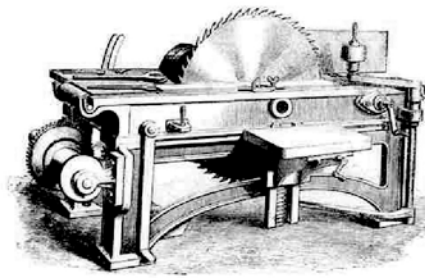
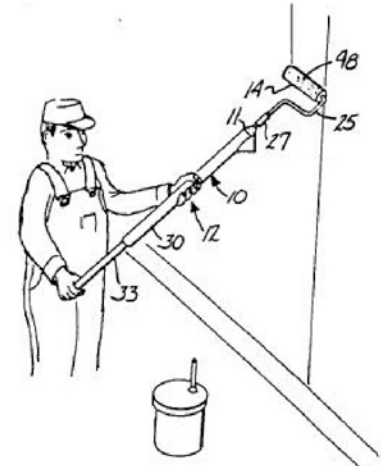
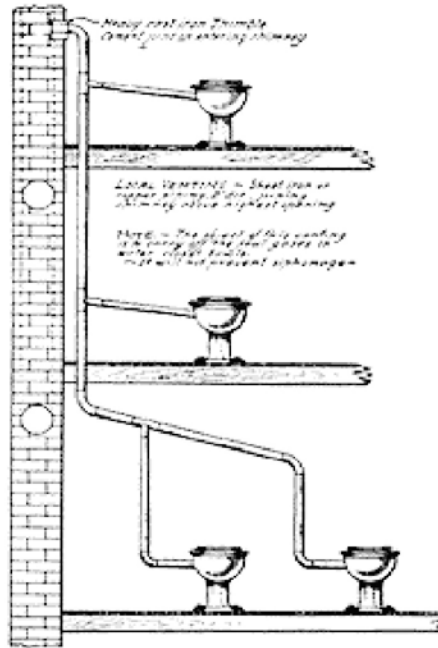


A highly subjective list of inventors and inventions close to my heart and hands. Fire (+/- 1.8 million years ago) was good, made more convenient by John Walker, who invented the friction match in 1826—which we still use around here. Penicillin, discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928, is crucial of course, but more lives have been saved by soap and water and the flush toilet than all antibiotics combined.



In 1813 Shaker sister Tabitha Babbitt invented the large circular saw used in lumber mills. She also invented an improved spinning wheel and shares with Eli Whitney the invention of cut nails.

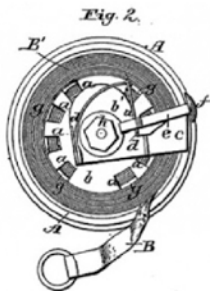
Credit for the flush toilet goes to 16th-century author Sir John Harington, who not only came up with the idea but installed an early working prototype in the palace of Queen Elizabeth I, his godmother. After Prince Albert died of typhoid in 1861 Queen Victoria demanded that piped water and sewage treatment be installed throughout Britain. 10 years later, her son Prince Edward came close to dying of the same disease, and word about the need for flush toilets went out from Britain to France and the rest of Europe and the world. The first patent for a flushing water closet was issued to Alexander Cummings in 1775, sixty years before Thomas Crapper.



Norman Breakey of Toronto, Canada invented the paint roller in 1940. Mr Breakey saved me—personally—several lifetimes of tedious labor with a paintbrush. Thank you, Norm!

The chainsaw evolved from the osteotome, an orthopedic instrument invented by the German Bernard Heine around 1830. "The links of the chain carried small cutting teeth with the edges set at an angle; the chain was moved around a guiding blade by turning the handle of the sprocket wheel." This doesn't bear long thought.

Andreas Stihl is credited as being the inventor of the mobile and motorized chainsaw for wood. Andy, yo!



On July 14, 1868, Alvin J. Fellows of New Haven, CT patented the tape measure



The first remote to control a television was developed by Zenith Radio Corporation in 1950. Called "Lazy Bones", it was connected to the television by a wire. A wireless remote control, the "Flashmatic", was developed in 1955 and worked by shining a beam of light onto a photoelectric cell, but the cell did not distinguish between light from the remote and light from other sources. The Zenith "Space Command" was the 1st functional remote, 1957.

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personal heroes of invention
loren madsen, 2013
source: the internet