

FAQs



Air Admittance Valves (AAVs)



Q What is the definition of DWV?

A DWV is an acronym used in the plumbing industry which means Drainage, Waste and Vents.

Q What is the definition of an AAV and what is it used for?

A AAV = Air Admittance Valve. The AAV is designed to take the place of a fixture or branch vent.

Q Can an Oatey Sure-Vent be installed outside?

A No. The Sure-Vents are not designed for exposure to Ultra Violet Rays.

Q Can the Sure-Vent be used in place of a main vent stack?

A No. Every dwelling needs to have one main vent stack exiting the roofline into the free atmosphere. It is also recommended that a relief vent be installed when completing a new home or large addition rough-in.

Q Does the Sure-Vent require maintenance?

A Yes. The Sure-Vent is a mechanical device and like all mechanical devices, a scheduled maintenance routine should be set up to ensure AAV is functioning properly.

Q How high above the fixture trap should the Sure-Vent be located?

A A minimum of four inches above the horizontal branch drain (trap).

Q Can the Sure-Vent be used to vent a sealed sump pit with waste grinder pump?

A Yes, with exceptions. Always check with your local building officials to confirm this application is approved in your municipality before attempting this installation. We also recommend you check with the pump manufacturer before completing installation. Remember, you also need to vent any fixture or group of fixtures, and check with your local building official to ensure your plumbing system is designed properly before installation. If they are not vented properly, the drains will not flow properly. After confirming all parties involved approve this application, contact our customer service department who will send out a drawing explaining the application.

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Q What is a DFU?

A DFU stands for drainage fixture unit. This is a measure of probable fluid discharge into the drainage system by various types of plumbing fixtures. Each fixture's DFU value depends on the volume of fluid discharge per cycle and an average time between cycles. The chart below gives you some examples of fixture DFU calculations. Always check with local building officials to confirm these calculations match theirs.

- Private Toilets (1.6 gpf) – 3 DFUs
- Public Toilets (1.6 gpf) – 4 DFUs
- Urinals (1 gpf or less) – 2 DFUs
- Res. washing machine – 2 DFUs
- Bathtub with or without overhead shower or whirlpool attachments – 2 DFUs
- Bathroom Group – 5 DFUs: consisting of 1-toilet (1.6 gpf), 1-lavatory sink, 1-bathtub or shower, including or excluding 1-bidet and 1-emergency floor drain. All fixtures in this group must be located on the same level.
- Shower (5.7 gpm or less) – 2 DFUs
- Kitchen Sink (domestic) with food grinder or dishwasher – 2 DFUs
- Laundry Sinks (1 or 2 compartments) – 2 DFUs
- Commercial washing machine – 3 DFUs

Q Can the Sure-Vent be installed inside a closed wall?

A No. The AAV must have access to the open atmosphere. If the Sure-Vent is to be installed in a wall cavity, you must use one of our AAV wall boxes with a louvered face plate. This allows the Sure-Vent to have access to the open atmosphere, and also acts as an access door.

Q Can the Sure-Vent be installed in the attic?

A Yes, with exceptions. The attic has certain conditions that can affect the AAV performance which should be considered before choosing this as a location. The temperature ranges that the Sure-Vent will operate in are -40°F to 150°F, your attic can experience drastic temperature variations depending on how it is vented and your geographic location. Insulation fibers can get caught inside the diaphragm which will make it harder for the diaphragm to open, or achieve a good seal when it is in the closed position. The Sure-Vent should be installed a minimum of six inches above the finished height of your insulation, and the attic must have an access point to conduct scheduled maintenance.

Q Does Oatey Sure-Vent come in different sizes?

A Sure-Vents come in 6 DFU capacity, 20 DFU capacity, 160 DFU capacity and 500DFU capacity.

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Q What fixtures can the Sure-Vent be used to vent?

A You must first check with your local building officials to confirm that the Sure-Vent installation you are attempting is recognized as an approved application. If your application is approved under the guidelines of the plumbing code in your area, a Sure-Vent can be used to vent any plumbing fixture and or floor drain.

Q Is the Sure-vent approved for use in a RV?

A Yes, with exceptions. When the RV is stationary, the Sure-Vent will properly vent the drains for the kitchen and bathroom. If the RV is in motion and depending on how the DWV system was assembled from the factory, positive pressure could stop the Sure-Vent from opening.

Q Can AAVs be installed if the home has a septic system and not city sewer services?

A Yes, with exceptions. Remember that septic systems build up positive pressure as the organic waste breaks down in the tank, this creates positive pressure. This positive pressure can affect the performance of the Sure-Vent, and you may have to add a vent on the inlet side of the septic tank if this happens. The vent on the septic tank is most commonly recognized as a pipe that looks like a candy cane.

Q What is the difference between positive and negative pressure, how does it affect the Sure-Vent?

A Negative pressure in a DWV is created when a drain or fixture has fluids flowing through them, this is why a vent is required. Without a vent the water would flow very slowly or not at all. Example: stick a straw in a glass of water and before you remove the straw, put your thumb over the top of the straw. When you remove the straw, the water stays in the straw because there is no vent. When you remove your thumb, the water flows out of the straw because you have a vent. The Sure-Vent allows each plumbing fixture and drain to receive the needed air to drain properly. Positive pressure is present when the city sewers are relieving pressure that is designed to push back up through the building sewer and eventually out of the roof vent on your home or building. While this positive pressure is being released and your plumbing fixtures and or drains are not being used, the Sure-Vent will remain closed. This is important because if the Sure-Vent did not protect you from positive pressure, your home would fill up with foul odors.

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Q Can the Sure-Vent be installed horizontally?

A No. Sure-Vent must be installed as close to vertical as possible. You cannot have the Sure-Vent tilted more than 15° from side to side, otherwise it will not operate properly.

Q Can the AAV malfunction and what are the signs?

A Yes. Any AAV can malfunction or not operate properly because it is a mechanical device. Signs of that the Sure-Vent is not operating as intended, are foul odors. If you smell foul odors (sewer smell) near a plumbing fixture which has a Sure-Vent installed, this means the Sure-Vent is not closing properly to create a positive seal and should be replaced. Some individuals relate slow drains to the Sure-Vent not operating properly. The Sure-Vent is not the issue, the slow drain is related to a partial blockage within the drain itself. A partially blocked drain will fill with water when the fixture is draining, and the Sure-Vent recognizes the positive pressure from the restriction and stays in closed position to stop backflow out of the Sure-Vent. You should have your drain cleaned when this occurs.