



PINK PLUMBERS

Plumber Jo Lawrence fills her day with so much, it would make your eyes 'water' (spot the 'wet' references)!

Q) What is your role in the company?

I'm a sole trader – a friendly and reliable plumber, my role is to provide a safe and reliable service for my customers by turning up on time, doing a tidy and professional job, being friendly and leaving a tidy house behind me! I take pride in my work and the service I provide. I like to think that I restore trust in tradesmen/women by being honest and having integrity. I get great satisfaction from a drip-feed of smaller jobs which customers find it hard to find plumbers for.

Q) How and when did the business start?

I started my Pink Plumbing business in August 2003. Last year it became Pink Plumbers with a view to expanding. I originally had carpentry skills (learnt whilst training as an Occupational Therapist when I left school). But I've always been hands-on, and in 2002 I helped to fix a toilet. Flushed with success at this, my friend suggested I train as a plumber. I was already planning on building my own house and thought that the plumbing would come in useful!

Q) Where did you learn your plumbing skills?

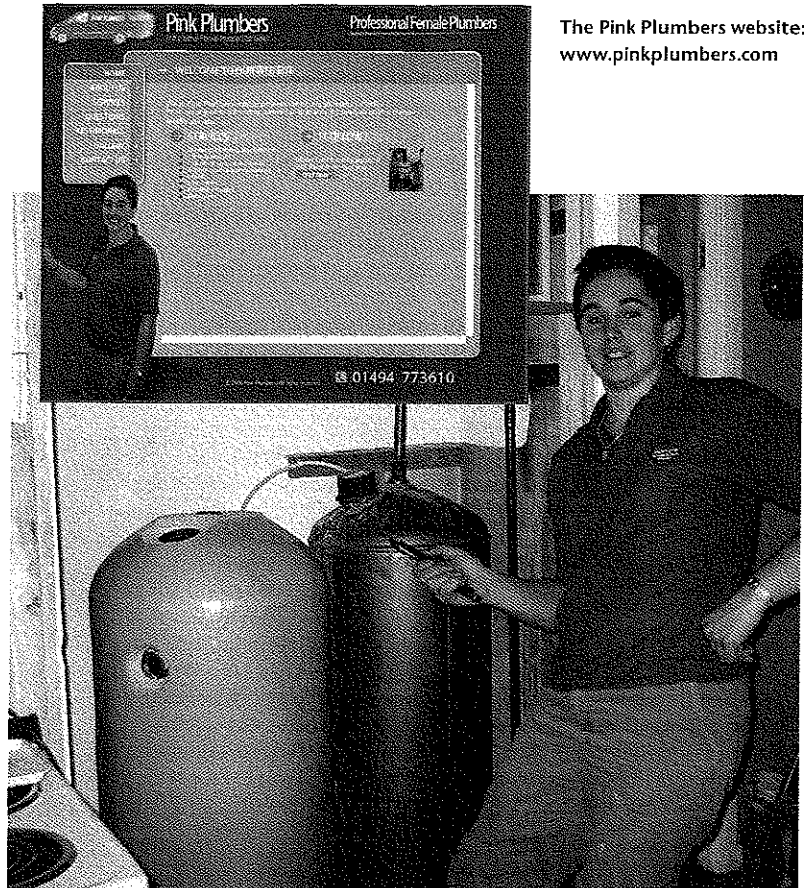
I did the City and Guilds Technical Certificate, a one-year course, full time at Aylesbury College in Bucks. I was the only woman, which had its pros and cons! I have a couple of plumbers I pass work on to on a commission basis, but I would certainly like to find more tradesmen and women to sub-contract work out to, from taking on small jobs when I'm not available, to working with me on larger jobs.

Q) What is your typical day?

My days go with a splash. I start plumbing around 10am. Before that I take the kids to school, and make calls with two or three people in my team for another business I run, to set them up powerfully for the day. I usually fit in one plumbing job before lunch, during which time I go to the gym for an hour workout and a visit to the steam bath. Then I'll fit in one or two more jobs after lunch, get home around 6-ish to make dinner for the kids and my partner. Then after dinner I get on with charity projects I run.

Q) What is the charity?

I'm managing a project to build a village for a community of orphaned children in South Africa, to get them into safe housing and into school. In five to 10 years time my intention is to be working out in South Africa, running the charity projects on the ground. Who knows I may even get out the tools! If anyone would like to find out more, then visit www.loveisallweneed.org.uk. I'd like to be in a position to sell my plumbing business before I go.



The Pink Plumbers website:
www.pinkplumbers.com

Q) How long have you been a Guild member and why did you decide to join?

I joined in 2005. I became a member because I recognised it as a credible organisation with which to associate my name. When I enquired I also became aware of the support The Guild offers. When you're a sole trader – a small fish in a very big sea – it's easy to feel isolated. It's great when you discover that it doesn't have to be that way and that you don't have to be fending entirely for yourself.

Contact

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