

# Pinecrest

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## Coral Gables Plumbing does the job right the first time

BY LINDA RODRIGUEZ BERNFELD

Coral Gables Plumbing has been in business since 1926. Although no longer located in the Gables, the company continues its long tradition of excellence.

Coral Gables Plumbing, 13101 SW 87 Ave., is owned by Rick Swanson, who is joined in the company by his son Brandon. Swanson's parents bought the plumbing company in the mid-1950s from the original owners. Rick has been working there since 1970. Son Brandon joined him in 1992.

"We do residential repairs, complete bathroom remodeling, we clear stoppages, we do sewer inspections with a video camera and on the commercial side we do repairs," Swanson said. We also do (the piping for) medical gases for hospitals. We also can repair and install solar systems."

However, Swanson says the solar water system market pretty much died when the tax credits homeowners received for them were removed.

The only thing Coral Gables Plumbing doesn't do is install fixtures in new construction for tract homes. Swanson says that's just repetitive work and it just doesn't fit into what his company likes to do, which is take on challenges.

"Repairing them (fixtures) is more involved," he said. "You have to understand the way they work and you have to know all the manufacturers. I think repair work is more difficult than new work."

When homeowners have decided that they are tired of repairing their bathroom fixtures and that the time has come for a bathroom remodeling, they often call Swanson for help.

"We handle the tearing out, the plumbing work, coordinate the tile man, the plastering, and we handle the permitting," Swanson said. "We have a show room here to show what they are getting. We have all the different products so we can recommend

Coral Gables Plumbing owner Rick Swanson (left) with son Brandon.



stuff. Most of the people who use us like the fact that we handle everything"

Typically, a complete bathroom remodeling with new fixtures, tile work and cabinets will start in the \$7,500 range and go up depending on what materials are chosen. Swanson says the cost is dependent on the quality of the products; the higher the quality, the higher the cost.

Coral Gables Plumbing tends to do middle to upper end bathroom remodeling.

"We do mostly in the Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Coral Gables, Coconut Grove and Kendall areas," Swanson said. "We were working on Fisher Island, we work on the Beach, anywhere. We're doing a job in Key West."

When it comes to the remodeling, the customer is the boss.

"We basically do whatever people want us to do," Swanson said. "They call us and we ask them to come to the showroom. So when we go to look at the bathroom, we know

what they want to install."

What's in style these days for a new bathroom? Swanson says white is the color to use because it doesn't go out of style.

"You can't look at it and know when it was built," Swanson said. "You can change the color of the towels."

Currently, many of the bathrooms Coral Gables Plumbing is remodeling are bathrooms repaired after Hurricane Andrew that were poorly done. Others are bathrooms that were done with the harvest gold and avocado green, colors that were so popular many years ago.

"The way we do work, we try and do it right and we try to do it right the first time," Swanson said. "We try and do it the way I would want it done at my house."

Coral Gables Plumbing guarantees its work for a year.

For more information, call 305-254-3434.