

PB PIPING: Q & A

What is Polybutylene Piping?

Polybutylene Piping is a form of plastic resin used for interior and exterior water piping between the years of 1979 - 1995. Polybutylene (PB) is estimated to be in 1 out of every 4 homes built during this period. PB is used for supply lines for plumbing fixtures on the interior of a home. It may also run underground outside to supply a home's main water service.



Where can you see Polybutylene Pipes?

PB can most commonly be seen where the main water line connects to the home. Be careful, sometimes a home will have copper entering, but is connected to polybutylene on the outside. PB Piping can also be seen under sinks, above and around the hot water heater, in the basement, and in crawl spaces. Interior PB is usually gray in color. Exterior PB can be blue, gray, or black in color.

What's wrong with PB Piping?

Plastic and metal fittings both fail due to improperly calibrated crimping machines, but plastic fails at a greater rate. Failure takes 10-15 years in most cases. The piping usually deteriorates from the inside, so a visual inspection may not accurately determine if the piping is in good condition. Improper installation also lead to many problems with PB.

What can you do about it?

As of recently there were still limited funds in the PB Piping class action suit. To find our more, call 1-800-392-7591, or visit www.pbpipe.com

Polybutylene Piping is one of the many home issues checked for by House Smart, Inc.'s certified home inspectors. Call for more info. or to schedule your inspection today:

(770) 988-9929

Or schedule online at: www.housesmartinspect.com