

PPI Continuing Education Program

Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) Tubing for Water Service Line Applications

Course Outline: Crosslinked polyethylene (PEX) tubing has been used for water service line applications in North America for over 25 years, providing safe delivery of potable water for building occupants. A result of modern polymer technology, PEX tubing performs in ways that provide excellent durability and reliability. The properties of PEX water service tubing can improve the health, safety, and welfare of water utility customers.

AWWA C904, the controlling industry standard specification, was first published in 2006 and updated in 2016. The requirements of this ANSI-approved standard ensure that PEX tubing is a strong, tough, reliable material with exceptional resistance to chlorine and chloramines, and is compatible with a wide range of fitting options.

This course demonstrates how the properties of PEX water service lines can protect the health, safety, and welfare of building occupants through efficient and reliable delivery of clean drinking water. It will describe material properties, joining systems, standards, installation techniques, and practical advantages over traditional metallic materials.

Learning Objectives: By the conclusion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss how the properties of PEX tubing can protect health, safety, and welfare of building occupants when used as water service lines
2. Describe several joining systems that are approved for use with PEX water service tubing
3. Explain the standards and certifications that apply to PEX water service line tubing
4. Direct installers on correct installation techniques to ensure long-term safety and performance
5. Identify practical reasons to specify PEX water service line tubing as a replacement for copper
6. Show how to access industry resources for additional material, design, and installation information

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