



PPI TN-65 Insulation for Plastic Piping

PPI's Building & Construction Division has released a new **Technical Note** that provides guidance about insulating plastic pressure pipe and tubing materials within residential buildings.

Although plastic piping materials are inherently better insulators of heat energy, and therefore worse conductors of heat, as compared with traditional metal pipe materials such as steel and copper, there are several situations where plastic pipe materials should be insulated for protection against freezing of fluids within the pipes.

PPI TN-65 Insulation Recommendations for Plastic Pressure Piping Materials in Residential Applications focuses on insulating plastic pressure piping materials from the perspective of freeze protection, and not energy conservation. It applies to the piping materials CPVC, PEX, PEX/AL/PEX, PE-RT, PP-R, and PP-RCT.

This new technical note applies to applications such as hot- and cold-water plumbing, fire protection, and hydronic heating or cooling systems within residential buildings. It includes the following sections:

- Model Code requirements for piping insulation & protection
 - Excerpts from the UMC, UPC, USHGC, IMC, IPC, NPC, NSPC, CSA B214, and CSA C448
- PPI recommendations to prevent freezing in a variety of applications
 - Tips for Water Service, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Chilled Water, Hydronics, Snow & Ice Melting
 - Usage of Heat Trace Cable
- Thawing frozen plastic pipes
 - Using techniques such as hot towels, hot air, and hot water injection equipment

Access the full content of TN-65 at <https://plasticpipe.org/tn-65>

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Distributed by The Plastics Pipe Institute, Building & Construction Division.