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BUILDING COMMUNITY



PEX SAVES TIME AND MONEY FOR RESIDENTIAL HIGH RISE PLUMBING SYSTEMS

VANCOUVER, B.C. -- John Jacobsen of Phoenix Mechanical is so impressed with WISBRO AQUAPEX, he won't use anything else.

Time is money — especially in the building industry. John Jacobsen of Phoenix Mechanical in Vancouver, B.C., reaffirmed this belief when he began using UPONOR'S crosslinked polyethylene (PEX) tubing for his plumbing systems.

Jacobsen switched to PEX tubing after learning about its benefits over copper — flexibility, durability, reliable fittings, faster installations and a 30-year history of dependable service. WISBRO AQUAPEX is also extremely resistant to corrosive water and soil that can eat away at copper pipe, and it comes with a 25-year limited warranty when installed by an UPONOR-trained plumber.

Since installing WISBRO AQUAPEX in all his projects, Jacobsen has realized great time savings, money savings and a more reliable plumbing system.

“The flexibility of PEX allows us to eliminate many of the fittings that were required with copper,” Jacobsen says. “This means our systems are installed faster and at a lower cost.”

Phoenix Mechanical works with one of Vancouver's largest developers, Concord

Pacific, which has built 41 residential high- and low-rise buildings in the past few years. Three of their buildings, which contain over 300 units each, are plumbed with more than 120,000 feet of PEX tubing.

In these buildings, PEX is tied to structural rebar in the concrete slab. Using flexible PEX tubing eliminates joints within the slab and cuts installation time by approximately 50% when compared with copper.

“I have used WISBRO AQUAPEX since the day it was approved in Vancouver, and I think it is an absolutely wonderful product,” Jacobsen said. “The installation is fast and easy, and the tubing can be buried directly in concrete — something the codes won't allow us to do with copper. We put the tubing in a sleeve so it can easily be removed in case of construction damage.”





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The UPONOR PROPEX fitting provides a secure connection without torches, glue or gauges

Energy bylaws in Vancouver also require added insulation around copper tubing for hot-water distribution. Because PEX is a good insulator on its own, it is not subject to the insulation requirement, saving plumbers valuable time and money.

“The cost of WISBRO AQUAPEX is similar to the cost of the insulation that would have been required for copper,” Jacobsen said. “You can’t beat savings like that.”

Another benefit is the PROPEX® fitting system that capitalizes on the shape memory of the tubing. An expander tool expands the tubing enough for the fitting to be inserted, and the tubing then shrinks around the fitting as it returns to its original shape. The result is a permanent connection that is consistent every time without the use of torches, glues or gauges.

“WISBRO AQUAPEX offers us a complete system that is reliable and ideal for both the plumber and the homeowner,” Jacobsen said. “Since I started using it, I won’t use anything else.”



Manifolds supply hot and cold water to fixture in

more than 300 units of a residential high rise

Summary of Benefits

- Fast Installation

Flexible PEX tubing requires fewer joints than rigid plumbing systems, saving money and time and reducing the risk of leaks. Two installers were able to plumb five units a day. With copper, the rate would be only two units a day.

- Quiet

PEX has excellent sound-dampening characteristics, eliminating the problem of water hammer and pinging pipes.

- Healthy

PEX tubing is clean, healthy and non-toxic and does not emit any odor or taste into the potable water system.

- Reliable Fittings

UPONOR’s PROPEX fittings use the shape memory of the PEX tubing. This makes them unlike any other fitting system on the market because they are quick and simple to install. These fittings also allow for visual inspection, ensuring a proper connection with no guesswork.

- Proven

UPONOR PEX tubing has been used in plumbing systems around the world for more than 30 years. The tubing has endured continuous high temperatures and pressures in independent lab tests for more than three decades, proving its strength and durability.

- Corrosion Resistant

Vancouver has highly acidic water that can eat away at copper pipe over time. PEX resists aggressive water and soils making it much more durable in Vancouver’s plumbing systems.



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Project Data

Manifolds supply hot and cold water to fixtures in more than 300 units of a residential high rise

- Size of Structure: 300,000 square feet
- Type of Construction: Steel stud
- Floor Construction: Concrete
- Tubing Type: 1/2" and 3/4" WISBRO AQUAPEX
- Fitting Style: PROPEX fittings
- Number of Manifolds: 2 per suite, 8 suites per floor
- Feet of Tubing: 68,000 feet of 1/2" tubing
- And 10,000 feet of 3/4" tubing

About PPI

The Plastics Pipe Institute, Inc. (PPI) is a Texas-based, non-profit organization, founded in 1950, that is the major trade association representing all segments of the plastic piping industry. PPI is dedicated to expanding awareness about plastic pipe systems and promoting plastics as the material of choice for pipe applications. It is the premier technical, engineering and industry knowledge resource that publishes data for use in development and design of plastic pipe systems. Additionally, PPI collaborates with industry organizations that set standards for manufacturing practices and installation methods. For more information about PPI and available information, go to: www.plasticpipe.org.