

USA: The American Way of publicity for systems “Out with Copper, in with PEX’

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Bob and Patti Jones of Tellico Village, an upscale community near Knoxville, Tenn., **were at wit’s end**. During a 12-month period, they had **hired plumbers three times to repair the pinhole leaks that had formed in the copper piping** throughout several parts of their home. Actually, they were only one of many Tellico Village families dealing with a recurring problem of pinhole-size leaks in their copper water-supply tubing. **Ten to 15 percent of the households were reportedly affected, with approximately 100 reports of pinhole leaks during the second quarter of 2005 alone**. The problem became so bad that a group of retired professionals formed a six member committee to investigate the source of the problem and to suggest viable alternatives. They issued a **statement strongly recommending the use of either cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) or chlorinated polyvinyl chloride (CPVC) instead of copper** for future potable plumbing material. When repeated attempts to repair the leaks with more copper piping failed, the Joneses sought the help of **Marty Myers, president of A-1 Plumbing Co., Inc., of Loudon, Tenn.** After reviewing all the options, including CPVC, **Myers chose PEX tubing – specifically, Wirsbo AQUAPEX®, made by Uponor.**

Unlike copper, corrosion-resistant PEX is practically impervious to pinhole leaks and holds up extremely well against aggressive soil and water conditions. The complete re-piping job at the 4,200-square-foot Jones home required 700 feet of PEX **tubing, which was installed in five days** at a cost of around \$4,000. As Myers notes, “Replacing piping with copper would typically take seven days – or an extra two days – for a house this size. That’s because copper is a rigid material. PEX tubing, on the other hand, is **very flexible and can be bent around corners,**” **saving as much as 30% in labor costs.**

Source: www.uponor-usa.com, 2008-05.