

The future of water systems



When Uponor Wirsbo made its revolutionary breakthrough in PEX tubing more than 30 years ago, it formed a foundation that will benefit builders for decades to come. The advantages offered by Uponor PeX have made Uponor Wirsbo the world's leading provider of non-metal plumbing systems to the residential housing industry. In comparison to traditional copper systems, Uponor PeX offers a new era of advantages: tube flexibility reduces the number of fittings needed; freeze resistance is proven down to 95° below zero Fahrenheit; tubing is guaranteed against leaks for 25 years; and connection systems require no sweating, gluing or crimping. Also, when polybutylene tubing was pulled from the market and removed from homes in an unprecedented class action lawsuit, the industry could rely upon Uponor PeX as an easy-to-install solution offering proven quality that homeowners can trust.

"Builders realize the advantages of our water systems, and we've also been very well received by homeowners," says Steve Lockridge, division Manager of Uponor Manufactured Structures. The Manufactured Structures division specializes in serving the systems-built housing industry. Uponor is one of the leading PeX providers for panelized and modular housing, mirroring the company's leading position in the site-built housing industry. "We (Uponor) completed the first real 30-year continuous test in the history of domestic hot water applications," Lockridge says. Tubing was observed from Nov. 15, 1973 to June 29, 2003, under accelerated conditions of 145 p.s.i. and 200'

Fahrenheit. "we're a company that strives to constantly lead, and never rests on its laurels," lockridge says. "Uponor feels a great responsibility about service to the industry."

As pointed out by Uponor technical director tim Peick, "in the past few years, the industry has gained much more awareness and product knowledge about water systems. the industry has developed a consensus standard regarding PeX chlorine resistance that greatly benefits everyone - systems builders, suppliers and home owners."

The consensus standard is ASTM F2023 "Standard test Method for evaluating the oxidative resistance of Crosslinked Polyethylene (PEX) tubing and Systems to Chlorinated Hot water."

The standard was developed in 2000 to the approval of builders, water systems manufacturers and industry leaders. "Non metal plumbing will grow continually in usage far into the future, and ASTM F2023 is a standard unlike any other in the past," Peick says. "Meeting the standard assures you're providing a water system that is resistant to the chlorine present in water."

Uponor PEX also meets standards of the International Plumbing Code (IPC), Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and International Residential Code (IRC).

The Plastic Pipe institute (PPI) completed document tn31/2004, entitled "differences Between PeX and Polybutylene Piping Systems for Potable water applications," to provide an overview of the significant advantages offered by PeX water systems. As another winter is upon us and copper pipes freeze and burst, builders can warm up to the fact that freezeresistant Uponor PEX is guaranteed for 25 years and proven superior in the field for more than 30 years.

