

SIX COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CPVC AND PEX

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO HANDLE PLASTIC PIPE?

According to results from a quiz* taken by 1,500+ plumbers, you may not. Here's how participants fared – and what they got wrong.

HANDLING CPVC

64% SELECTED THE WRONG TOOL TO USE WHEN CUTTING AGED CPVC.

Only 36% of plumbers reported they would use a C-style tubing cutters to cut into aged CPVC pipe for service. Using the wrong tools in service, such as ratcheting or scissors-style cutters, can damage the pipe. This damage is not due to a material defect, but is the result of improper tool use.



59% WOULD RECOMMEND AN UNNECESSARY RE-PIPE.

Older CPVC may be less flexible but continues to have excellent pressure-bearing capability and can remain in service – even if it is discolored or appears brittle when cut using the wrong tools. 59% of plumbers responded they would recommend an unnecessary re-pipe when they encounter aged CPVC that is still capable of performing for many years to come.

30% DID NOT KNOW THE RIGHT SIZE DAUBER TO USE FOR CPVC SOLVENT WELDING.

A dauber half the diameter of the pipe is best for providing an even coat of solvent cement to CPVC pipe. Using the wrong size dauber could result in an incomplete joint or damage to fittings.

HANDLING PEX

48% MISTAKENLY BELIEVE THAT PEX EXPANSION FITTINGS ARE “FULL FLOW.”

While some PEX manufacturers market expansion fittings as “full flow,” the design of PEX fittings doesn't enable full flow through the pipe. With all PEX fittings, the pipe fits around the outside of the fitting, reducing the internal diameter within the fitting. This restricts flow and can result in significant pressure drop.

42% FALSELY ATTRIBUTED A CHLORINE-RELATED FAILURE TO UV LIGHT.

UV light is a concern with PEX and can contribute to chlorine-related failures, but it doesn't cause the failure. The light acts as a catalyst for a process that consumes the antioxidants that protect the pipe from chlorine-induced oxidation. As these chlorine inhibitors get consumed, the piping degrades more rapidly with chlorine in the water.

48% ELECTED THE WRONG TOOL TO CUT PEX.

Only 52% of respondents answered correctly and knew that scissor-style pipe shears or ratchet-style cutters can be used on PEX, while nearly half would use C-style cutters which are ineffective on soft, flexible tubing like PEX.

QUIZ FINDINGS

These results show that many plumbers may be unaware of important practices and information for the proper handling and service of plastic piping systems. This highlights the need for service plumbers to seek out training and education resources to better understand, handle and diagnose issues with plastic plumbing systems. For more insights and tips on servicing CPVC visit flowguardgold.com/servicesuccess.

*Results are from the Test Your Service Plumbing Knowledge quiz created by the experts at FlowGuard Gold pipes and fittings.