



PLUMBING SYSTEMS

PEX VS. COPPER

FACT SHEET

## PEX: The Logical Choice for Plumbing Systems

When it comes to plumbing a home or building, builders, installers and owners agree — crosslinked polyethylene (PEX) tubing is the most durable, cost-effective and logical choice.

### Flexible

PEX tubing offers the tightest bend radius of any plumbing product on the market — as little as 3½" for ½" tubing. This eliminates the need for fittings and connections with each change of direction, and fewer fittings reduce your liability for leaks and problems.

### Durable

The re-pipe business has never been better with all the pinhole leaks in copper caused by harsh water conditions. Because PEX resists the damaging effects of harsh water conditions, it is usually the top choice for re-pipe jobs.

### Reduced Liability

In addition to fewer fittings for reduced liability, PEX tubing cannot be dry-fit,<sup>1</sup> eliminating concerns that a connection is made.

<sup>1</sup>When using cold-expansion ASTM F1960 fittings.

### Resists Freeze Damage

Because PEX tubing can expand and contract, it is less susceptible to freeze damage compared to rigid copper pipe.

### Sustainable

A 2008 life cycle study<sup>\*\*</sup> showed PEX requires less energy to produce and has an overall lower carbon footprint compared to copper.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Source: "Life Cycle Inventory of the Production of Plastic Pipes for Use in Three Piping Applications", Franklin Associates, 2008.

PEX vs. Copper	PEX	Copper
Flexible; fewer fittings and reduced liability	Yes	No
Resists corrosion, pitting and scaling	Yes	No
Eliminates torches, solder, flux and go/no-go gauges	Yes	No
Dampens rushing water noise; eliminates water hammer and singing pipes	Yes	No
Retains more heat in hot-water lines and resists condensation on cold-water lines	Yes	No
Cannot be dry-fit <sup>1</sup>	Yes	No
NSF International certification for water purity	Yes	No <sup>2</sup>
Resistant to freeze damage	Yes	No
Cost-effective, stable price	Yes	No
Sustainable	Yes	No

<sup>1</sup>When using cold-expansion ASTM F1960 fittings.

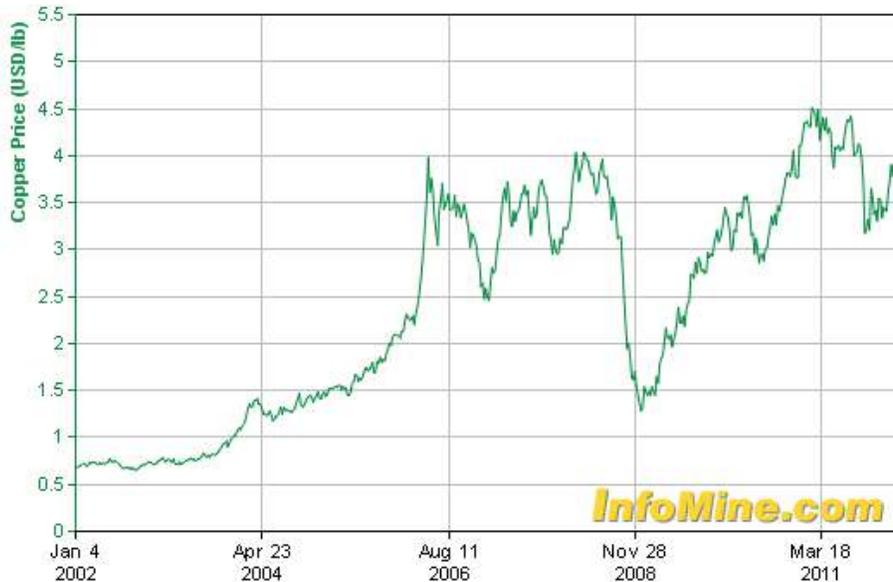
<sup>2</sup>Copper is only certified by NSF to NSF/ANSI Standard 61 for use in drinking water supplies of pH 6.5 and above.

Drinking water supplies that are less than pH 6.5 may require corrosion control to limit leaching of copper into the drinking water.

## Cost-effective, Stable Pricing

When it comes to stable pricing, PEX wins hands down over copper. Copper prices are three times higher than 10 years ago.

**Copper prices are 3X higher than 10 years ago.**



Source: <http://www.infomine.com/chartsanddata/chartbuilder.aspx?z=f&q=127669&dr=10y>



### Comprehensive Offering

PEX tubing is available in sizes from ¼" up to 3" to meet any application need.

### Safe for Your Plumbing System

Best of all, PEX tubing is tested in accordance with NSF/ANSI Standard 61: Drinking Water System Components — Health Effects and meets or exceeds the health requirements for potable-water products in the U.S. and Canada.

**Uponor, Inc.**  
5925 148th Street West  
Apple Valley, MN 55124 USA  
Tel: 800.321.4739  
Fax: 952.891.2008  
[www.uponorpro.com](http://www.uponorpro.com)

**Uponor Ltd.**  
2000 Argentia Rd., Plaza 1, Ste. 200  
Mississauga, ON L5N 1W1 CANADA  
Tel: 888.994.7726  
Fax: 800.638.9517  
[www.uponorpro.com](http://www.uponorpro.com)

**uponor**