

“PEX” Flexible Water Pipe Pros & Cons

The Advantages of PEX

- PEX pipe is suitable for use with hot or cold water. With the proper adapters, PEX pipe can be used with steel, copper, PVC and CPVC plumbing pipe.
- PEX is the most flexible plumbing pipe available. It can be bent around most corners without a coupling or fitting. For example, 3/8" pipe may be bent to a 4" radius and 1/2" pipe to a 5" radius.
- Most plumbing leaks and system failures occur at joints in fittings. Since PEX requires fewer fittings, it has less opportunity to leak and installs faster.
- PEX flexibility also allows it to expand and contract more than other types of pipe. Increased capacity for expansion makes PEX more burst resistant.
- PEX systems have a shut-off valve at each supply line. Having a shut off at each line allows the repair person to leave the rest of the system operational while working on one line.

The Disadvantages of PEX

- PEX is more susceptible to damage compared to metal piping systems.
- PEX is a relatively newer plumbing material, so the long term durability is not known.
- PEX requires special training and knowledge to install correctly (similar to CSST gas piping).