

PLASTICS PIPE INSTITUTE  
HIGH TEMPERATURE DIVISION  
12/3/04

#### COMPARING PEX PIPE TO COPPER PIPE

<b>Key Message</b>	<b>PEX Pipe</b>	<b>Copper Pipe</b>
Drinking Water Safety	NSF/ANSI Std. 61 approved at water pH levels from 5.0 to 10.0	No approval for water pH under 6.8
	PEX pipe does not corrode like metal pipes	Often requires water softeners and/or filters to temporarily prevent corrosion. Susceptible to other sources of corrosion.
	Resistant to mineral buildup	Susceptible to deposits, leading to buildup, pitting and pinhole leaks
Reliable Performance	Low pressure loss with consistent performance over time	Mineral buildups increase pressure loss over time.
	Significantly quieter than other materials	Rigid pipes susceptible to water hammer noise that can be heard throughout the house
	Reduced condensation	Conducts heat well, causing pipe “sweating” in hot weather.
	Resistant to freeze damage	Often splits when frozen
Faster, Safer, Economical Installation	PEX pipe provides options that improve system performance, reduce installation time and reduce cost – including central manifold, remote manifold and branch & tee installation.	Limited to labor-intensive branch & tee layout.