



City of Walnut Creek
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Guidelines for Use of Plastic Drain, Waste, and Vent (DWV) Piping

This Information Bulletin addresses the question of when ABS and PVC plastic piping may be used in residential and non-residential buildings.

California Plumbing Code Section 701.1 provides that ABS and PVC piping may be used in residential and non-residential buildings. Specific exceptions to building projects that the City of Walnut Creek has jurisdiction over follow:

- Section 701.1.2.1 is adopted by OSHPD-3. It prohibits the use of ABS and PVC in OSHPD-3 regulated clinics. This prohibition is not applicable to residential or other non-residential buildings.
- Section 701.1.2.2 states that, for HCD-1 and HCD-2 regulated uses, ABS and PVC piping cannot be used in buildings three or more stories in height. ABS and PVC can be used in residential projects up to two stories in height. This section does not apply to non-residential buildings.
- IAPMO Installation Standard 11-87 on page 317 of the California Plumbing Code does not allow the *Building Sewer* to be ABS, except for domestic sewage (residential use only). The *building sewer* is that part of the system starting 2 feet outside the building and terminating in the public sewer or in a private sewage disposal system. [For comparison, the *Building Drain* is inside the building and terminates 2 feet outside the building. IAPMO IS 5-92 does not limit the use of ABS within the Building Drain.]

The chemical resistance of ABS and PVC should be consistent with the proposed use of the drain system. PVC and ABS have some common chemical resistances, but PVC is usually tested for additional chemicals. Either PVC or ABS may be specified in the following uses without submittal of a specific listing:

- Residential
- Office
- Retail
- Restaurant

The chemical resistance of plastic piping for all other chemical uses must be evaluated by a California registered mechanical engineer. The engineer must submit a specific list of chemicals to be used and their concentration. The engineer must also submit a specific listing for the ABS or PVC piping to be used to show that it has the necessary chemical resistance. The evaluation shall include the manufacturer's detailed list of the chemicals that can be satisfactorily discharged through the plastic pipe to be used. The evaluation must render a written recommendation for the use of the plastic piping being proposed and bear the stamp and signature of the mechanical engineer.