

Toolbox News

'She Builds Better'[™] Newsletter by *Dawn*



Plumbing Pipes

There's all sorts of pipes when it comes to remodeling and building. Copper specifically is a big topic and a super important pipe for your water. There's an 'L' type and 'M' type that are most commonly used and refers to the thickness of the wall of the pipe. It is non toxic and safe for the earth. You definitely need to ask your plumber to use 'L' copper a thicker and longer lasting selection . Don't cut corners here!

Copper pros and cons

Acidic water of PH of 7 or less can be very hard on your pipes. Do you know what your acid water level is? The 'L' type is common in custom homes, often track houses use the 'M' copper and thus it corrodes quicker. Have you ever had a pin hole leak from corrosion? It sucks, and insurance companies pay out big time for these leaks. Today, no copper water lines are allowed under the slab. This is another problem in older homes. The copper pipes under the foundation leak and cause terrible damage to a home. Make sure you know whether your pipes are in the walls or slab in your home.



Ever heard of PEX?

Pex is an alternative to copper. Yes you guessed it it is cheaper! It is easier to use in remodeling and it's getting more attention all the time. Pex is a flexible polyethylene (plastic) pipe and in many cases is tougher than copper piping. Some say it does not deteriorate with age like copper may. Pex has many benefits that I'm beginning to embrace (old school Dawn) Ask your Pro plumber what his philosophy is on PEX.



ABS Pipes

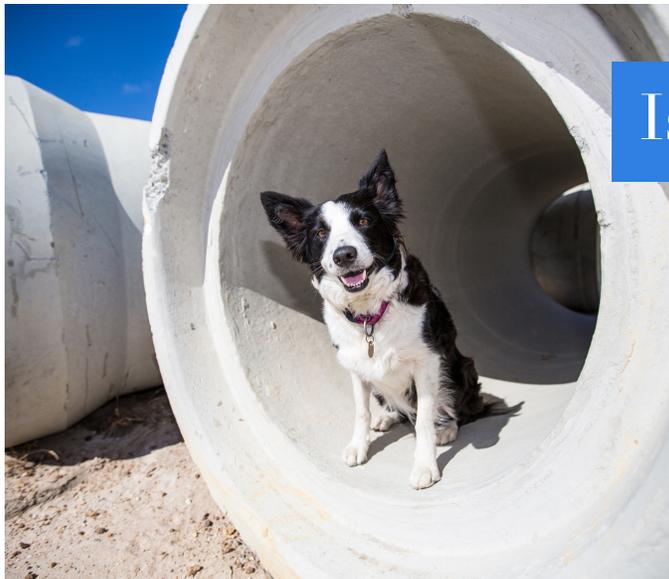
Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (big word folks) or ABS is used for sewer piping. As the older homes get remodeled the corroded cast iron or clay pipes crumble. It's another plastic (oil) pipe in your home mostly underground and in walls to send the poop and pee right out of your home and into the public sewer system. This piping has a thick wall and will withstand the compaction of concrete foundation and dirt on top of it. Tough for roots to penetrate, unlike the old cast iron that cracks easily.

PVC white pipes

This stuff is mostly used for your landscaping and some construction. I'm sure most of you have had to repair a yard pipe or two. Think about this.... all your piping is plastic and made of oil. There needs to be a way to pipe things without using oil yet none has come up with any alternative. Something to think about. PVC is short for polyvinyl chloride a thermal plastic in case you wanted to know!



Is there a better PVC pipe?



What a boring topic you say...I agree but it is interesting that there is a schedule 40 PVC (white)piping and a schedule 80 (gray) referring to the thickness of the wall of the pipe. It is about the pressure or PSI that it can withstand. Thicker is better but gals, avoid the schedule 200 and double check when getting your bids on landscape or plumbing. It is as thin as a fingernail and a shovel will break it immediately if you don't know it's there.

Power tools I love



The Dewalt orbital sander is my most recent favorite power tool. It shortens any sanding project. I used it on the wood hand rail on the exterior decking that was installed. It is light and super easy to work with. Here's the truth....it's my son-in-laws and we are constantly sharing this baby!

Where do I start?

ANSWER: Start in your bathroom! Get your Bathroom Remodel Checklist for FREE? Download it now below.

[I want it](#)



What makes me happy?



There is nothing more important than having fun with my grand kids. My youngest granddaughter keeps me dancing and laughing and there is no amount of money or work or travel that compares! She is a beautiful little girl and yes I am completely biased. I'm blessed with 3 little ones and each one is a special gift to me.