

# Home Inspectors Tips Sheet

## Polybutylene Plumbing



**School of  
Professional  
Home Inspection**

**This document is a  
sample from the Home  
Inspections  
Fundamentals class**

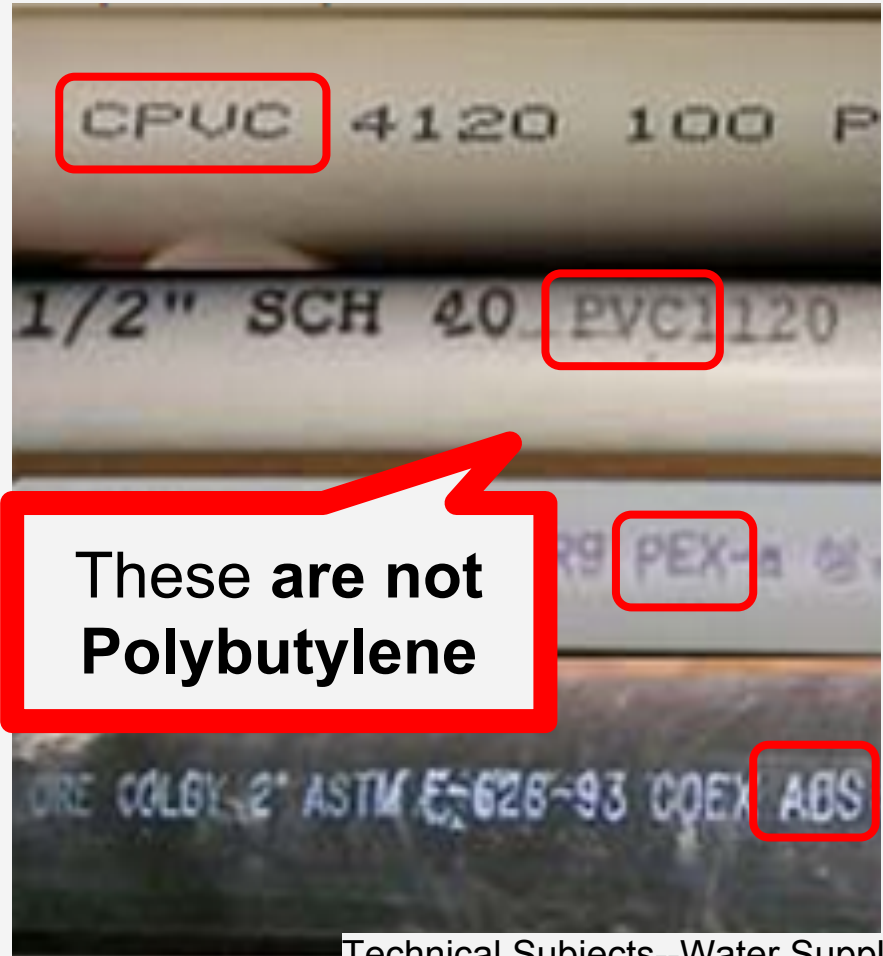
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# Polybutylene Plumbing

**PB** pipe is used in homes 1978 and 1994 as water supply lines.

It flexible, usually gray plastic pipe. It is **NOT** used for drains, waste or vent piping.

PB pipe is **NOT** PVC or CPVC, which is a rigid white or off-white plastic pipe.



# Polybutylene Plumbing



Polybutylene comes in many kinds, the pipe can be blue, black or gray the fittings are plastic, copper or steel several kinds of crimp connectors.

Technical Subjects--Water Supply

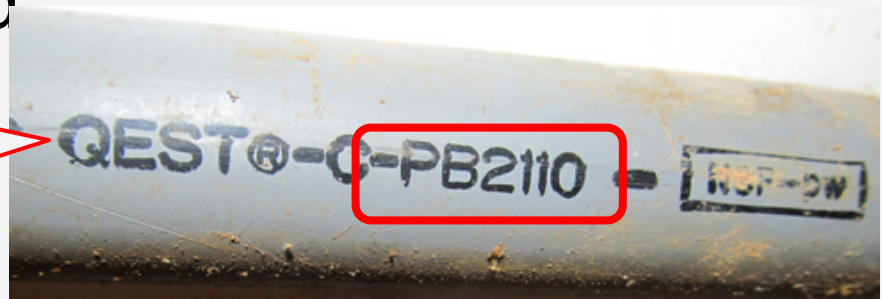
# (PB) Polybutylene Plumbing

In 1995, Shell Oil settled a \$1.103 billion lawsuit.



The lawsuit was brought on behalf of homeowners with PB. Eligible homeowners had their plumbing replaced

**QEST** is a common name on PB pipe.





# Polybutylene Pipe Failures

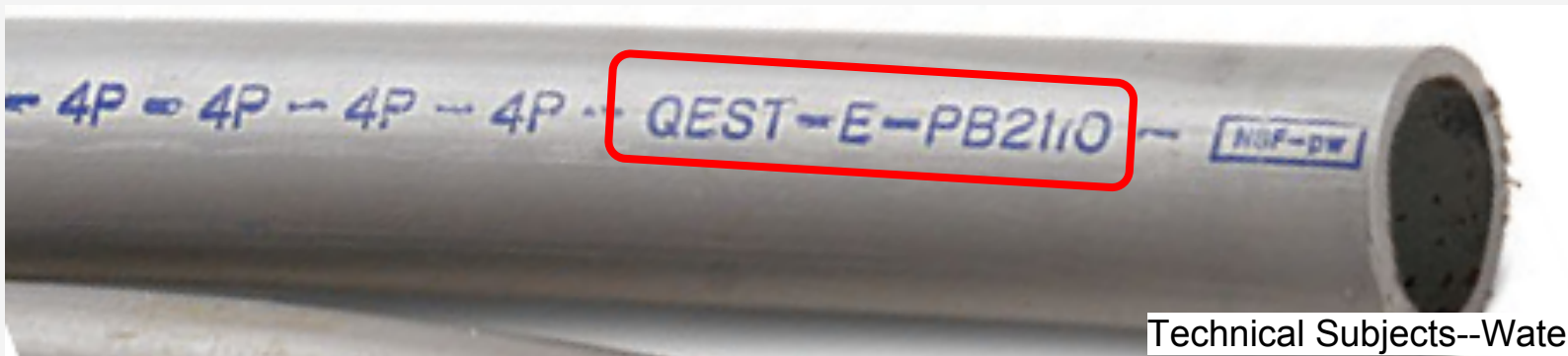
Most common in manufactured homes

Oxides from chlorine in public water may react with the polybutylene and cause cracks/failure.

Small fractures deepen over time and eventually leak.

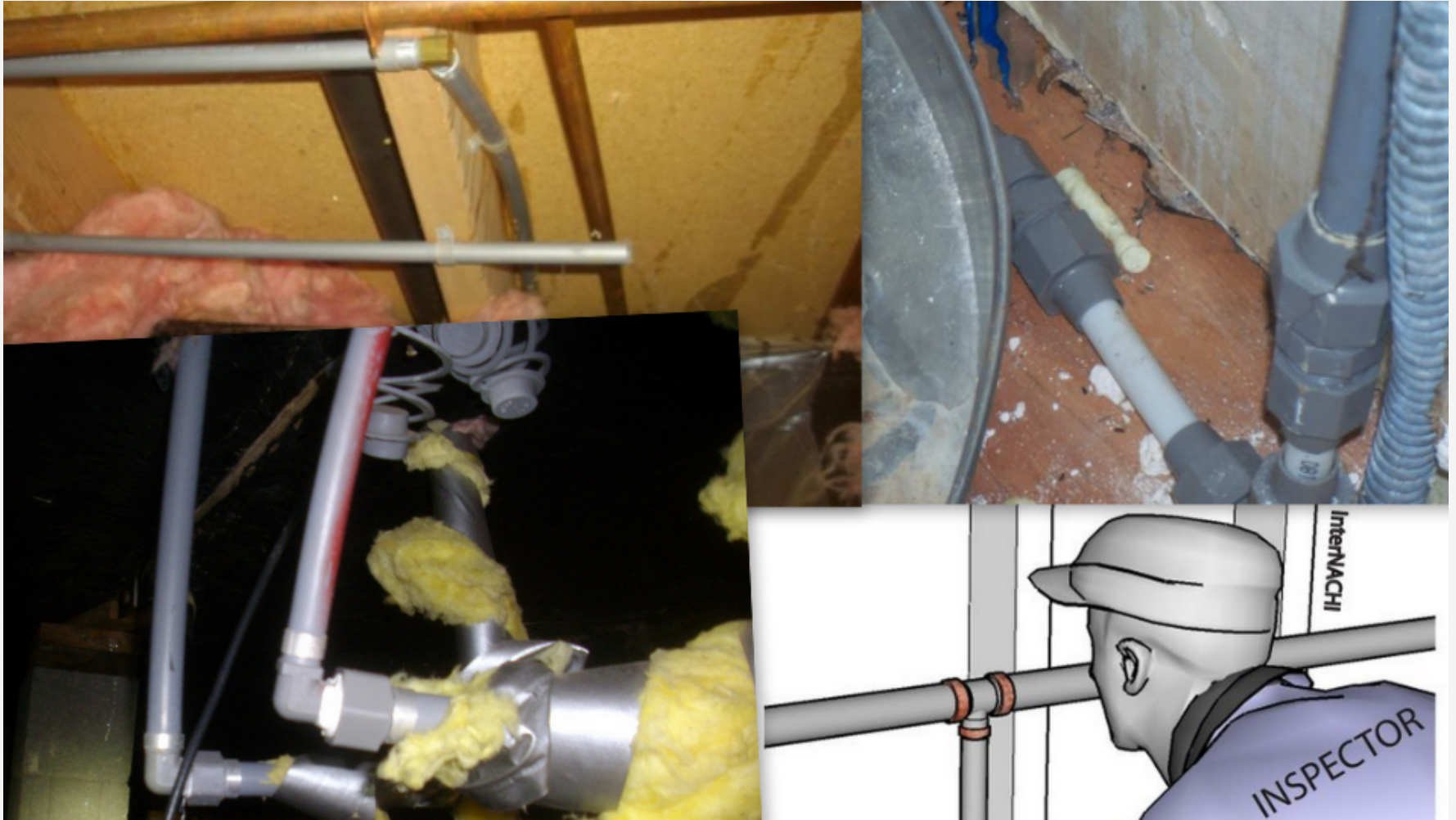
The majority of leaks occur at joints and unions.

The **largest** plumbing class action lawsuit ever at the time.



Technical Subjects--Water Supply

# Polybutylene



Thank You

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Leading tomorrow



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