

Failures of pressure water piping installations involving Poly-B within Canada and the US had resulted in a number of class action lawsuits. A notice of the Court's final statement was published in various Canadian print media on June 11, 2004. Poly-B claims deadline was May 31, 2005 or up to 15 years after date of installation.

Poly-B in Alberta

- Poly-B piping was introduced to the Alberta construction industry in the mid-1970s. Unconfirmed estimates are that about 148,000 homes in Alberta have Poly-B water systems.
- Poly-B would not be in your home if it was built before 1975 and no plumbing renovations have since been carried out.
- The Poly-B piping installed in Alberta primarily utilized copper or brass metal insert fittings and soft copper crimping rings, not plastic insert fittings and aluminum bands which are reported to be more susceptible to failures causing leaks.

Product Information

- Poly-B piping can be identified as flexible plastic piping with a light grey colour. The markings on the pipe indicate: pipe size, manufacturer's name or trademark, date code, material designation, pressure rating, certification agency and construction standard (e.g., CSA-B 137.8).
- Poly-B piping was tested and certified by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and remained an acceptable product for potable water systems, but stipulated that the pipe was not to be used for continuous circulating hot water lines as listed in the NRC-CNRC National Plumbing Code of Canada 1995.
- Poly-B water piping had been installed in residential dwellings and commercial buildings throughout Canada for more than 20 years.
- Poly-B piping and fittings were intended for use in both hot and cold water distribution systems for pressures up to 100 psi (690 kPa) and operating at temperatures up to and including 180°F (82°C).
- Some manufactures stamped on the pipe that it was not to be used on continuous circulating waterlines.
- Poly-B piping was produced from a polybutylene resin, in 1998, manufacturers stopped producing Poly-B piping as product supplier's suspended production of this resin.
- Poly-B is no longer listed in the current plumbing codes, however codes are not retroactive, this means that previous acceptable plumbing products do remain acceptable if the product does not pose a health safety hazard.

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For more information, please call Municipal Affairs, Safety Services at 1-866-421-6929 or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca