

PLASTIC PIPES

FINDING THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR FIXING OUR NATION'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM

Increasing volumes of troubling media reports about our nation's crumbling water infrastructure are an urgent reminder that a great deal of water systems in the U.S. were built decades if not a hundred years ago or more. These systems are nearing the end of their life spans and must be fixed. Modernizing these systems will be costly and time consuming, which is why it is important that the best choices are available to engineers when considering what materials to use in infrastructure projects. A proven option for updating our water systems is the use of plastic pipes, which have been shown to be cost-effective and durable.

MODERN PLASTIC PIPES:

Are innovative technologies that yield **high performance** at affordable costs

Meet all current **performance requirements and standards** in safety, strength, temperature & performance

Can have a lifespan of **more than 100 years**

ADVANTAGES OF PLASTIC PIPES

Proven Durability

- Plastic pipes meet numerous ASTM, AWWA, and NSF standards for durability
- Evidence shows the **life span of plastic pipes can exceed 100 years**^{1,2}, while legacy materials begin to corrode and break as quickly as 11-14 years³
- Unlike legacy materials, plastic pipes are **resistant to corrosion that costs taxpayers \$50.7 billion annually**⁴

Maximize Efficiency

- Plastic Pipes, because they do not corrode, require less energy for water transport
- Installation of plastic pipe is faster and **saves on energy and manpower** increasing savings in time, energy, and costs
- There are significant energy savings in the manufacturing and transportation of plastic pipes⁵

Protect Health

- Plastic pipes meet EPA requirements for clean water by **adhering to NSF/ANSI Standard 61, Drinking Water System Components – Health Effects**

¹Utah State University Buried Structures Laboratory, "PVC Pipe Longevity Report". <http://bit.ly/2ohtQV0>

²Jana, "Technical Report, Long-Term Performance of Polyethylene Piping Materials in Potable Water Applications" <http://bit.ly/2nn4ZKS>

³American Water Works Association and Water Research Foundation, "Long-Term Performance of Ductile Iron Pipe" <http://bit.ly/2nStMuj>

⁴U.S. Conference of Mayors, Mayors Water Council, "Municipal Procurement: Procurement Process Improvements Yield Cost-Effective Public Benefits", March 2013. <http://bit.ly/2opffDV>.

⁵Franklin Associates, "Comparative Energy Evaluation of Plastic Products and their Alternatives for the Building and Construction and Transportation Industries." <http://bit.ly/2nStPpT>