



## Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association

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### Estimate of PEX tubing used in the State of California in 2005

The Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association (PPFA) has attempted to estimate the current level of adoption of PEX tubing in the State of California by comparing an internal confidential PEX manufacturer survey with the number of housing permits in the state in 2005.

In that year 207,154 residential building permits were issued. 154,816 (75%) of them were single family, and 52,338 (25%) were for condos and apartments, which tend to be smaller.

The average amount of tubing in each of the homes can only be estimated from work PPFA performed with the National Association of Homebuilders. Due to the infinite variations in plumbing layout, and made more difficult by PEX being installed in three different designs; traditional trunk and branch, manifold or remote manifold, we estimate 500 feet of tubing per single family residence and 300 feet per condo or apartment. The following calculation would determine the following tubing required for 100% adoption in new residential construction:

$$\begin{aligned} 154,816 \times 500 \text{ feet} &= 77,408,000 \text{ feet} \\ 52,338 \times 300 \text{ feet} &= \underline{15,701,400 \text{ feet}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{total} = 93,109,400 \text{ feet}$$

The PPFA member survey indicated that 132 million feet of PEX were shipped to California in 2005, **more** than required for all new residential buildings constructed that year. 88% of this was in sizes common (3/8 – 1”) to residential plumbing systems. The large amount over that required for all new residential construction suggests that PEX tubing is also being used in other applications, such as re-piping failed systems and commercial construction.

An article titled “Saving Energy Manufacturers, Builders, and Owners Find Merit in Building Green”, in California Builder<sup>1</sup>, put the estimate at *“.....approximately 80 percent of production builders in Northern California are using the less conductive PEX piping.”*

The obvious conclusion is that PEX is being used in the State of California to an enormous extent, and in one way or another, is replacing 132 million feet of copper tubing, saving the citizens of California a tremendous sum of money.

<sup>1</sup> Link to article: <http://www.cabuilder.com/internal.asp?pid=79>