



ABS/PVC Drain, waste, vent

B-66

Development Services

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The purpose of this Information bulletin is to establish the requirements for the installation of acrylonitrilebutadiene-styrene (ABS) or polyvinyl-chloride (PVC) piping used for drain, waste and vent (DWV) systems in three or more story residential buildings classified as Residential Group R-3 occupancy such as single-family residences with attached ADU, duplexes, and townhouses with no more than two dwelling units.

I. GENERAL

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD 1&2) has amended California Plumbing Code (CPC) Sections 701.2(2)(a), 903.1.1 and 1101.4 to limit the use of ABS and PVC piping to not more than two stories of residential use when used for DWV piping systems. The City of Carlsbad will allow use of ABS or PVC piping for DWV systems within new and existing R-3 occupancies that are three or more stories when in compliance with the conditions listed in Section II of this bulletin.

II. CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

DWV systems constructed of ABS or PVC piping are permitted within the City of Carlsbad for R-3 occupancies such as single family residences, duplexes and townhouses of three or more stories provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- A. Compliance with CBC 1206 for sound transmission within common interior or exterior walls and floor/ceilings where the drain pipes will be installed. CPC 309.5.
- B. Provide 5/8" thick type X gypsum board at all walls or enclosures where the ABS or PVC piping is installed.
- C. Fire-blocking shall be provided at vertical floor to floor penetrations concealed within wall cavities. Through penetration fire stop systems shall be provided. Vertical and through penetrations shall comply with CBC Section 714 and CRC Section R302.11, as applicable.
- D. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in locations within residential dwelling units in accordance with the requirements of the current California Building Code (CBC) or California Residential Code (CRC), as applicable.
- E. Expansion and contraction of the construction and DWV system shall be accounted for in compliance with IAPMO PS 51-2016.
- F. The system installations must be performed by a proficient plumber competent in installing ABS or PVC pipe. Installation, storage, handling and protection of the ABS or PVC piping shall be per the manufacturer's installation and handling instructions.
- G. ABS/PVC is approved for installation of up to two stories only for all occupancies other than R-3.
- H. Alternate material and methods of construction requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis through the Carlsbad form B-72 application process.