



## ABS Pipe

### What is ABS pipe?

ABS pipe is rigid plastic pipe used to run waste drains for sinks, tubs, showers, toilet, and washing machines. It is also used to run vent stacks for waste drains. It is distinguishable from typical PVC pipe by its black color and is often referred to as "black PVC".

### The potential problem with ABS pipe...

Five of the manufacturers of ABS pipe settled a class action law suit filed against them for problems with pipe manufactured between 1984 and 1990. The defective pipe tends to crack circumferentially at or near a joint or fitting. The cracking can potentially create leaks and cause water damage to the structure as well as promote the growth of [mold](#).

Not all of the pipe manufactured between 1984 and 1990 has proven to be problematic and it is possible that pipe manufactured during this time frame by the involved manufacturers is performing as designed. Below is a list of the manufacturer's named in the suit and the time frames over which they may have produced questionable ABS piping...

**Apache:** Between November 1984 and December 1990

**Centaur:** Between January 1985 through September 1985

**Gable:** Between November 1984 and December 1990

**Phoenix:** Between November 1985 through September 1986

**Polaris:** Between January 1984 and December 1990

### How can I tell if I have potentially defective ABS pipe?

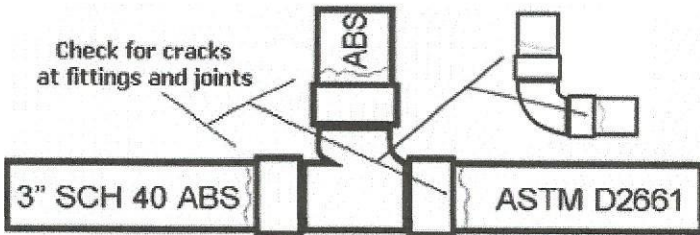
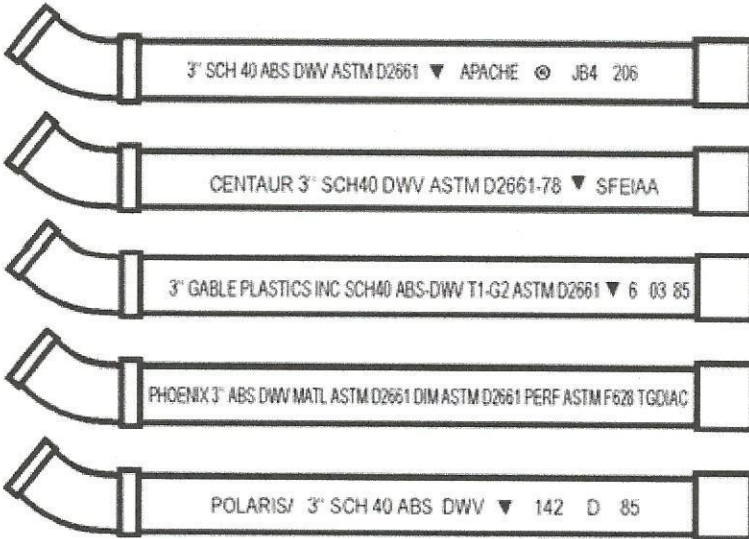
If your house was built before 1984 you will not have the questionable ABS pipe. If your house was built anytime after 1984 look for rigid black plastic drain piping. (Remember that existing stocks of pipe might have been used even after 1990). This pipe will be one and a quarter inches or more in diameter. ABS pipe has markings on the outside of the pipe that include the name of the manufacturer, references to code specifications, and a date code.

Here is where to look:

1. **Attic:** The most likely place to find a long enough length of pipe to get the required data from is in the attic.
2. **Under sinks:** The piece of pipe coming from the wall that connects to the sink trap may be ABS. If the pipe looks molded or is threaded, then it is not ABS pipe.
3. **Crawl space:** If your house has a crawl space under it, then you may find ABS pipe underneath the house.

While your looking in these areas be sure to check for circumferentially cracked pipe near any fitting or joints that you may find and write down any manufacturer's data

written on the pipe. Below are some examples of the data your looking for from the involved manufacturers.



## What can I do if I have (or have had) a problem?

You can get reimbursement for repairs to defective piping as part of the settlement in the class action law suit. In order to qualify your piping must be cracked circumferentially adjacent to a fitting or joint, have leaked, and been manufactured by one of the named defendants during the relevant time frame.

If you can document previously made repairs you may also be able to get reimbursement. You can use the claim form below to get the process started.

[absclaim.pdf](#)

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