



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

USE OF ABS AND PVC IN 3 OR MORE STORY
**Residential Buildings
of R-3 Occupancy**

CITY OF SAN DIEGO DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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The purpose of this technical bulletin is to establish the requirements for the installation of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) or poly-vinyl-chloride (PVC) piping used for drain, waste and vent (DWV) system in three or more story residential buildings classified as Group R-3 occupancy, such as single-family residences, duplexes and townhouses.

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has amended CPC Sections 701.1, 903.1.1, 1101.3.1 and CBC Section 1503.4 to limit the use of ABS and PVC piping in not more than two stories of areas of residential accommodation when used for DWV system.

The City of San Diego allows use of ABS or PVC piping for DWV system within new and existing three or more story residential buildings provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- A. All ABS and PVC piping and fittings shall be enclosed within walls and floors covered with "Type-X gypsum board" or similar assemblies that provide the same level of fire protection. Protection of membrane penetrations is not required.
- B. Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed in locations within residential dwelling units in accordance with the requirements of the current and governing CBC or CRC as applicable.
- C. Fire-blocking shall be provided at vertical floor to floor penetrations concealed within wall cavities. Through penetration fire stop system shall be provided. Both vertical and through penetrations shall comply with provisions specified in CBC, Section 714 and CRC, Section R302.11, as applicable.
- D. The installation, storage, handling and protection of the ABS and PVC piping shall be per the manufacturer's installation and handling instructions.

**Documents Referenced in this
Technical Bulletin**

- 2013 California Building Code, (CBC)
- 2013 California Residential Code, (CRC)
- 2013 California Plumbing Code, (CPC)