



BARKER • MARTIN

Plumbing System Defects

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CPVC -KITEC-PRESSFIT

CPVC = Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride



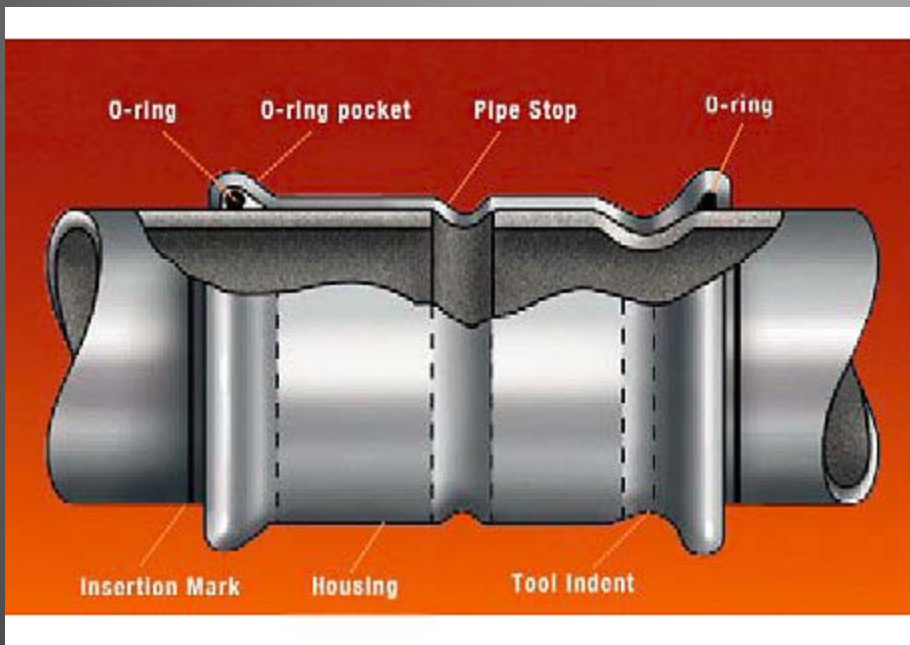
CPVC-KITEC-PRESSFIT

A flexible plastic & aluminum pipe used for hydronic heating



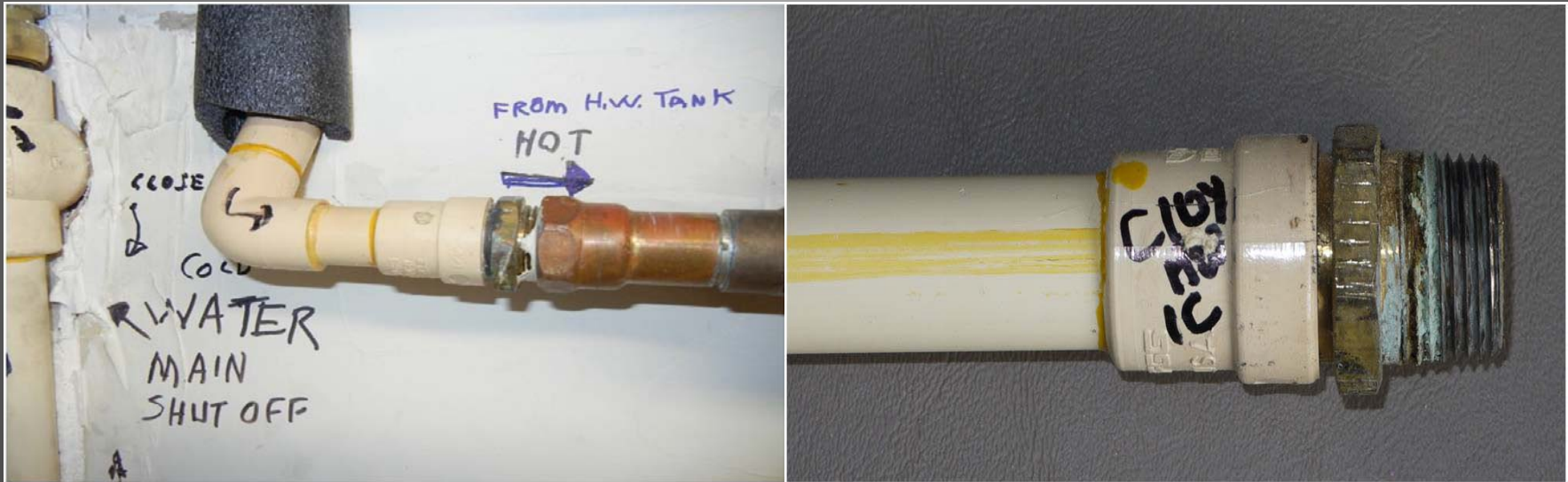
CPVC-KITEC-PRESSFIT

Stainless steel or copper pipes connected by “pressing” them together, fittings contain rubber gaskets or O rings



What is CPVC?

- Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride, or “CPVC” is a rigid plastic pipe used for potable water including supplying hot water.





What is the problem with CPVC?

- Embrittlement
- Discoloration
- Knit Line Fractures



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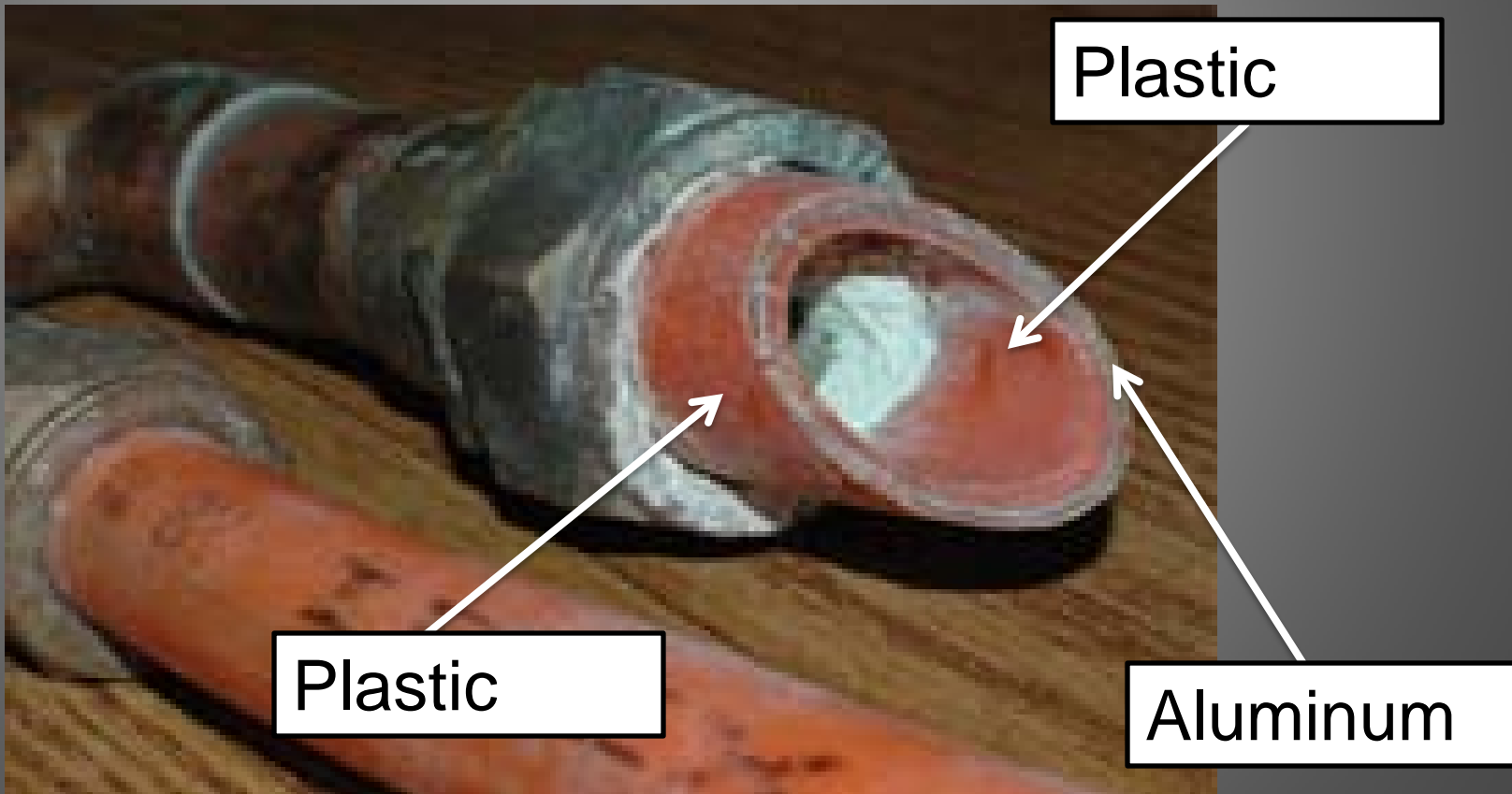


Kitec Systems



IPEX KITEC PIPE

Pex - Al - Pex



THE PROBLEM

Kitec Pipe Blisters & Ruptures





Kitec also uses yellow brass fittings

Click image to enlarge



Pic 1: Examples of Kitec brass crimp fittings.

Click image to enlarge



Pic 2: Examples of Kitec brass compression fittings.



IPEX Class Action

- Kitec system opt out deadline was September 30, 2011
- Claims settled for US and Canada:
<http://www.kitecsettlement.com/index.cfm>
- Blue/orange
- Pipes are marked: Kitec, PlumbBetter, IPEX AQUA, WarmRite, Kitec XPA, AmbioComfort, XPA, KERR Controls or Plomberie Améliorée. Fittings are marked: Kitec or KTC

PRESS FIT

Stainless steel or copper pipes connected by “pressing” them together, fittings contain rubber gaskets or O rings

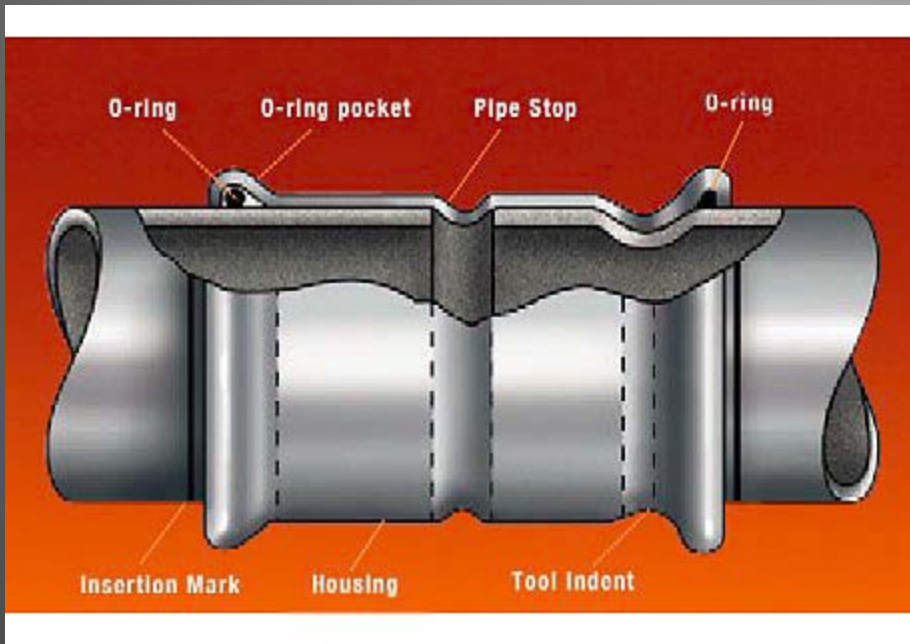
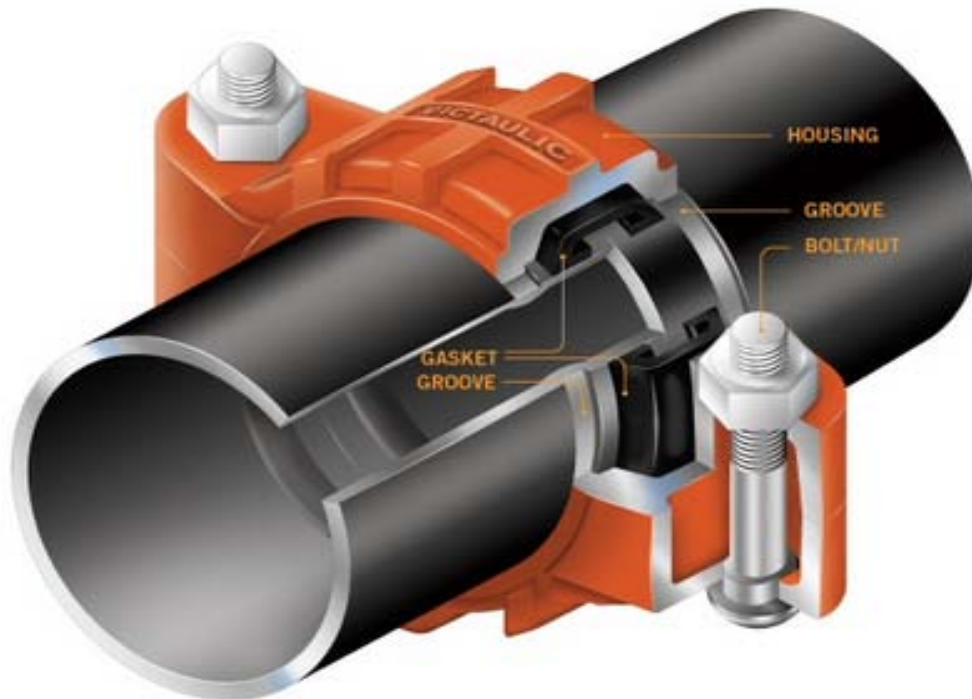


Diagram of Grooved Coupling

A grooved coupling is comprised of four elements:

- the grooved pipe
- the gasket
- coupling housing
- the nuts and bolts





Press Fit/Grooved Connections

- Issues alleged relating to O rings and gaskets
 - Cracking
 - Softening
 - Discs in valves may exhibit same problems



Investigation and Repair Issues

- Initial identification
- Extractions
- Repairs



Statutes of Limitation Product Liability

RCW 7.72.060

- Useful Safe Life
- 12 Year Presumption
- 3 years from discovery

Class Action Considerations

- Yellow Brass Claims against Uponor arising out of F1807 fittings are settled
- National and state class actions relating to F1960 fittings are pending.
- Consider your legal options while you still have them.