

## ABS Pipe Issues

ABS (Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene) pipe is black rigid plastic pipe used for drain waste vent (DWV) lines in plumbing systems and was subject to a major class action settlement from failed pipes manufactured from 1984 to 1990.

**ISSUE:** Failed black ABS pipes were generally identified by fractures and leaks near the joints causing damage to homes. The cause was identified as a production issue and manufacturers stepped up to cover damage costs to consumers. The pipes were found to crack and, in some cases, completely shear off, allowing the drain/waste water to leak and flood. In many cases hairline cracks were found with only minor seepage, but these small cracks still allowed sewer odors to escape into the structure.

**TIME FRAME:** The pipes are date stamped and each manufacturer has a different timeline.

1. Apache - November 1984 and December 1990
2. Centaur - January 1985 through September 1985
3. Gable - November 1984 and December 1990
4. Phoenix - November 1985 through September 1986
5. Polaris - January 1984 and December 1990

NOTE: Not all of the pipe produced in those time frames has shown failure. In fact, the majority is still performing as designed.