

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.