CPVC Piping Systems Myth vs. Fact

Myth #1: CPVC breaks down over time.

**FACT:** CPVC is currently performing satisfactorily in installations nearly 60 years old.

Myth #2: Old CPVC cannot be repaired without breaking.

**FACT:** CPVC plumbing systems can be added to or repaired using proper methods, techniques, and tools.

Myth #3: CPVC is difficult to install.

**FACT:** CPVC is easy to install and no more difficult than any other non-metallic interior potable water system. It is often installed in DIY projects. No soldering or open flames are needed, as with copper. Pipe rigidity makes CPVC a good choice for replacing other piping materials.

Myth #4: Solvent-based cleaners must be used prior to solvent cementing.

**FACT:** If the piping is clean, a cleaner is not required.

Myth #5: CPVC always requires the use of a primer.

**FACT:** One Step Cement, which does not require a primer, is permitted in most code jurisdictions. The use of primer and a two-step (primer and solvent cement) method is also acceptable.

Myth #6: CPVC loses strength over time.

**FACT:** As CPVC ages, its ability to sustain pressure increases.

Myth #7: CPVC has inferior thermal performance vs. other piping options.

**FACT:** CPVC has very low thermal conductivity and has excellent hot water-delivery, reducing water heating costs as a result.

Myth #8: CPVC pipe causes taste and odor problems in drinking water.

**FACT:** CPVC pipe does not create this issue. CPVC piping systems are tested and certified for potable water applications under the strictest requirements of NSF-14 and NSF-61.

Myth #9: CPVC is less sustainable or less environmentally friendly than other options.

**FACT:** Compared with copper, CPVC generates half the greenhouse gases during manufacture, and more importantly, delivers hot water to fixtures about 25% more efficiently, which can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with hot water use by 10 to 30 tons over the life of the building.
Myth #10: Plastic piping systems are flammable.

FACT: CPVC is inherently flame resistant and will not sustain a flame. CPVC is even used in fire sprinkler systems.

Myth #11: CPVC cannot be recycled.

FACT: Most CPVC piping is still in use; however, CPVC can be readily recycled into the vinyl stream.

Myth #12: Selection of CPVC does not provide any credits under LEED, or other green building programs.

FACT: The selection of CPVC piping can assist in achieving green building credits.

Myth #13: CPVC piping is a noisy product.

FACT: CPVC piping systems reduce surge pressures and limit water hammer noise.

Myth #14: CPVC piping off-gasses plasticizers.

FACT: CPVC piping systems for potable water do not contain plasticizers.

Myth #15: CPVC releases toxic smoke in fires.

FACT: CPVC piping does not produce increased hazards over other standard building products in a fire.