



MYTH vs FACT | Polyethylene (PE)

MYTH: Polyethylene is a choice only for residential applications.

FACT: Polyethylene is widely used in a variety of commercial, institutional, educational and industrial applications for plumbing, hydronic, and geothermal heating/cooling applications, not just residential!

MYTH: Polyethylene is not approved by the building codes in my area.

FACT: Unlikely! Polyethylene is approved in all 50 states. Check your local codes!

MYTH: Polyethylene is the same as Polybutylene.

FACT: Not true. Polyethylene is a thicker, higher-performance and proven product with at least 60 years of use in Europe and the US!

MYTH: Polyethylene releases chemicals in the water.

FACT: Like all products used with drinking water systems, Polyethylene is tested to NSF-61 to comply with requirements for potable water uses.

MYTH: Polyethylene is more difficult to design or engineer with than rigid pipe.

FACT: Polyethylene is flexible in the smaller diameters and well-suited to new service line installations and retrofits. Refer to the PPFA website and contact your manufacturer for more information.

MYTH: Polyethylene expands and contracts more than other piping systems.

FACT: Polyethylene does expand more than other products, but is also flexible, reducing surge pressures, noise, and strain. There are a number of options for designing around the expansion characteristics. Consult your Polyethylene pipe supplier for information.

MYTH: Polyethylene is not sustainable or green like other pipes.

FACT: Polyethylene is actually one of the best choices for sustainability and is fully recyclable. PE piping conserves resources, energy and water. It's the primary material used in geothermal heating and cooling systems.

See the PPFA LCA for more information: https://www.ppfahome.org/pdf/Peer_Reviewed_Pipe_Use_Phase_Report_combined_Final.pdf

MYTH: Polyethylene is not tough enough material for piping.

FACT: Polyethylene has high abrasion resistance and is used to pump slurries and for dredging where it can outlast steel pipe.

MYTH: Polyethylene can only be heat-fused to make joints.

FACT: Polyethylene can be joined in a wide variety of methods including mechanical and electro-fusion joining in addition to heat fusion.