Industrialized Housing and Buildings

Technical Bulletin

IHB TB 17-02 – Drain Waste, and Vent Systems Testing
Applicable Code: 2015 International Plumbing Code (IPC) and 2015 International Residential Code (IRC)
May 5, 2017

Effective with the adoption of the 2015 IPC and IRC, DWV plastic piping can no longer be tested by air. The codes never did allow the air pressure test for plastic piping used in water supply systems. Now that restriction also applies to plastic piping used in DWV systems.

The 2015 IPC, Section 312.2 states the following: “Plastic piping shall not be tested using air.”

The 2015 IRC, Section P2503.5.1 states the following: “DWV systems shall be tested on completion of the rough piping installation by water or, for piping systems other than plastic, by air, without evidence of leakage.”