



# Builder Tip

## COMBUSTIBLE PIPING

Issue No: 17  
 Issued June 1996  
 Revised March 2015  
 Updated to 2012 Building Code

### ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

- 3.1.4.9. Combustible Piping
- 3.1.5.16. Combustible Piping Materials
- 3.1.5.22. Combustible Components in Public Pools and Public Spas
- 3.6.4.3. Plenum Requirements
- 7.2.5.12. Plastic Pipe, Fittings and Solvent Cement Used in Buildings

### OBJECTIVE

The scope for this builder tip is for buildings within the scope of Part 3 of the Building Code. The intent of this Builder Tip is to assist plumbing/mechanical contractors and building/plumbing officials in determining the permitted use of combustible piping in buildings.

The following table summarizes the requirements and conditions that the Building Code will permit combustible piping to be installed in a building of noncombustible construction.

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	LOCATION IN A BUILDING	LIMITATIONS AND EXCEPTIONS
COMBUSTIBLE CONSTRUCTION	Combustible piping permitted anywhere in a building.	Except for use in a ceiling space that is used as an air plenum.
	Combustible piping in mid rise construction permitted anywhere (except an air plenum) in a building provided it has a maximum flame spread rating of 25.	A maximum flame spread rating is not required for the following; Combustible sprinkler piping and associated adhesives. Combustible tubing for pneumatic controls and associated adhesives provided the tubing has an outer diameter not more than 10mm. Combustible piping and tubing and associated adhesives used in public pools and public spas, and combustible piping and tubing and associated adhesives concealed in a concrete floor slab.
NONCOMBUSTIBLE CONSTRUCTION	Combustible piping permitted anywhere (except an air plenum) in a building provided it has a maximum flame spread rating of 25.	The flame spread rating is waived for combustible piping concealed in a wall or concrete slab and combustible components associated with a public pool. When piping used in a high-rise building, it must have a maximum SDC of 50, except when concealed in a wall or concrete slab.
	Polypropylene pipes and fittings used for plumbing DWV used for highly corrosive materials	The building is sprinklered, piping is not in a vertical shaft and pipe is firestopped with a system with a FT rating not less than the FRR for separation when subjected to the fire test method, with a pressure differential of 50 Pa between the exposed and unexposed sides, with the higher pressure on the exposed side.
	Combustible piping permitted in a ceiling space air plenum, provided it has a maximum FSR rating of 25 and a SDC of 50.	The flame spread and smoke development ratings are waived for pneumatic tubing with 3/8" outside diameter.

The Building Standards Department issues BUILDER TIPS as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at (905) 475-4850