

PLUMBING

TYPE	TYPICAL LIFE SPAN	YEARS USED	DEFECTS
<i>Brass</i>	40-70+ yrs.	1900-1935	Corrosion causes leaks, Expensive
<i>Copper</i>	50+ yrs.	1935-Present	Copper pipes also encounter problems from water acidity, so they are not good to install for plumbing systems that draw water from a well.
<i>Galvanized steel</i>	20-50 yrs.	1900-1950's	Dezincification, Galvanized steel pipes may contain lead, which corrodes quickly and reduces the lifespan of the piping.
<i>Cast iron</i>	75-100 yrs.	1900-1980's Little cast iron pipe is currently manufactured.	Cast iron pipe is extremely strong and durable, but is quite brittle and if accidentally knocked will easily break.
<i>Polyvinyl chloride (known as PVC)</i>	50-80 yrs.	Used in the late 1960's to Present	Improper installation practices
<i>Polybutylene piping</i>	Fittings 25-30 yrs.	1970's through the 1990's	Prone to breakage
<i>Lead</i>	100 yrs.	Used in the early 1900's-1940	Have the water tested. If results show the lead content at 15 parts per billion (15 ppb) or more, replacement needed.
<i>CPVC</i>	50-80 yrs.	1985-Present	Improper installation practices
<i>ABS</i>	50-80 yrs.	Manufactured in the mid 1980's	Building codes in some areas no longer allow the use of ABS. Buyers should be particularly alert for leaks in ABS black plastic drain, waste or vent piping.
<i>PEX</i>	40 yrs.	Late 1990's-Present	The pipe can fail when exposed to chlorine within the water, or over exposure to sunlight before installation. The leading cause of failure in a brass fitting used with PEX is caused by dezincification.

GARAGE

TYPE	TYPICAL LIFE SPAN
Garage Doors	20-25 yrs.
Garage Doors	10-15 yrs.