PEX FAQs

Do I need certification from Jones Stephens to install PEX tube and fittings?

No, you do not need certification to install Jones Stephens' PEX piping and fittings. Our PEX piping and fittings install in the same way as most PEX systems on the market today. If you would like training in Jones Stephens' product features and general installation requirements, please contact your local sales representative.

My local code inspector asked for a certification card. How do I get one?

We do provide a product training card if you successfully complete training on the installation instructions for Jones Stephens' PEX piping and fittings. If your local inspector requires something like this prior to installation, please reach out to your local sales representative.

Are there any differences in red, white, and blue PEX?

- Our potable PEX-A and PEX-B piping comes in the colors red, blue, and white. Normally, red piping is for hot water, blue piping is for cold water, and white piping is for supply lines or single-color systems, although any of the colors can be used for any of the applications. Jones Stephens' oxygen barrier PEX comes in the color white only.
- Natural vs. White Piping
  There is no product or performance difference between our natural colored and white-colored PEX piping. The only difference is in the coloring.

NOTE: Based on market feedback, Jones Stephens decided to change our natural-colored piping to white piping. This change affects PEX-A potable water and oxygen barrier piping only. This is a rolling change, and you may receive mixed batches for a period. Contact your local sales representative with any questions.

Can I use PEX in radiant (hydronic) heat systems?

Our oxygen barrier PEX is suitable for radiant (hydronic) heating. Because hydronic heating systems include some iron-containing components, the oxygen barrier applied to Jones Stephens' oxygen barrier PEX is necessary to prevent rusting and keep the system running smoothly.

Is PEX resistant to chlorine?

PEX is specifically designed to withstand corrosion from hot chlorine-treated water.

Can I use PEX outside?

PEX piping is approved for use outdoors, however, you must protect it from direct and indirect sunlight, as PEX cracks and becomes brittle from continued exposure to sunlight.

How does Jones Stephens package its PEX piping?

Jones Stephens used to package our PEX piping in cardboard, but the cardboard created a lot of material to dispose of for customers. Now our PEX piping comes shrink-wrapped, with individual lengths wrapped in black plastic and coils wrapped in clear plastic. The black plastic shrink-wrapping protects the lengths of PEX piping from UV damage until they are unwrapped, while the clear plastic shrink-wrapping on the coils means they will need UV protection from the start. Our coil packaging allows customers to pull piping from the center of the coil, letting the coil stay mostly wrapped and contained during installation. This is a rolling change, and you may receive mixed batches for a period. Contact your local sales representative with any questions.

Can you expose PEX piping to sunlight?

PEX pipe can be damaged by UV radiation from sunlight. If used outdoors, installers should sleeve the pipe. Refer to Jones Stephens' installation instructions for details on pipe specifications and UV resistance ratings.

How are PEX-A, oxygen barrier, and PEX-B piping different?

While all PEX pipe must meet the same performance standards, they are manufactured using different methods, which leads to differences in flexibility, thermal memory, and general installation methods. Understanding these differences can help when choosing the best option for certain installations. Visit our website for more technical information.

Can I store PEX outside?

- Our PEX piping can be stored at temperatures between -94°F–180°F. Exposure of the piping to temperatures outside of this range may result in damage or product failure. When storing PEX-A piping in temperatures below 73°F, it must be warmed before the piping can be expanded. Refer to our PEX Installation Guide for complete storage details.
- PEX piping can be stored outside but must be protected from sun (UV) exposure.

Can PEX freeze?

Yes, PEX piping can freeze if not properly insulated or buried below the frost line. PEX-A is freeze-resistant, meaning it can expand and contract to its original shape if frozen, but PEX can only expand and contract so many times before the stress on the piping causes leaks or other problems. PEX-B should not be allowed to expand. Use the same installation precautions for PEX piping as other piping, to prevent freezing.

Can I repair PEX piping if it kinks?

- To repair kinks in our PEX-A piping, including oxygen barrier, apply heat with a heat gun. The "thermal memory" property of PEX-A piping allows the heated material to remember its prior shape and return to it.
- To repair a kink in our PEX-B piping, cut out the damaged area and repair with a fitting.

What fittings and tools do I need to install Jones Stephens' PEX?

- Our PEX-A piping is compatible with (F1960) insert fittings, using an expansion ring tool and with (F1807, F2159, F3347, F3348) insert fittings, using a copper crimp ring tool or stainless-steel clamp tool. Follow all tool manufacturer instructions when installing PEX.
- Our PEX-B piping cannot be used with expansion fittings, but it is compatible with (F1807, F2159, F3347, F3348) insert fittings, using a copper crimp ring tool or stainless-steel clamp tool. Follow all tool manufacturer instructions when installing PEX.

Do you need glue with PEX systems?

No, you cannot use glue (solvent cement) with PEX piping; it is meant for mechanical joining with fittings.

Can I use other brands' products with Jones Stephens PEX piping and fittings?

You can use other brands' PEX products with Jones Stephens' PEX piping and fittings, however, it affects the warranty. Please refer to the warranty document for complete details.

What warranty does Jones Stephens offer on its PEX plumbing system?

Jones Stephens offers a 25-year warranty on its PEX plumbing system. However, if another manufacturer's components are used with the Jones Stephens' PEX plumbing system, the warranty changes. Please read the warranty in its entirety.

Can I bury PEX in concrete or underground?

You can embed our PEX in concrete; however, all fittings must be outside of concrete. In cases where the PEX penetrates a concrete slab, it must be protected with a non-metallic sleeve.

You can bury PEX in soil. Choose soil without rocks or other sharp objects.

How should I install PEX with or around a water heater?

When installing PEX with or around a water heater, ensure there is at least 12 inches of vertical spacing and 6 inches of horizontal spacing between the PEX piping and the water heater. In addition, many plumbing codes call for 18 inches of copper tube coming directly from the water heater, before you can install PEX.

How can I straighten out a PEX coil?

Straightening a PEX coil can be done manually, with hot and cold water, with the sun's heat, or by using a PEX uncoiler.

- To manually straighten a PEX piping coil, attach one end of the piping to a stationary object and unroll the piping on a flat surface, bending it against its natural curvature. Attach the other end of the piping to a stationary object and keep the piping secured for several hours or overnight. Weight can be placed on top of the piping but be careful not to crush the PEX.
- To straighten a PEX coil with hot and cold water, attach one end of the piping to a water source and run hot water through it, holding the piping as flat as possible. When the piping lays completely flat, run cold water through the piping to help lock in its new shape.
- To straighten a PEX coil using the sun's heat, place the coil in a sunny location for several hours to warm it up, then unroll it and pull on the piping to straighten it.

  NOTE: PEX is not meant to be used in sunlight or left in the sun for a long period of time, but a few hours will not hurt it.
- To straighten a PEX coil, you can use a PEX uncoiler, a tool designed specifically for this purpose.

Can PEX be pressure-tested?

Yes. PEX can be pressure-tested with water or air; however, it depends on your local code requirements.

Where can I buy Jones Stephens' PEX piping?

You can buy Jones Stephens' PEX at plumbing wholesale distributors nationwide.

Why choose PEX over other piping systems?

PEX offers a combination of cost savings, durability, flexibility, and ease of installation compared to other piping systems.

What are the benefits of PEX versus Copper and CPVC piping?

Compared to copper and CPVC piping, PEX is quieter, less expensive, more flexible, freeze-resistant, and easier to install.

Does Jones Stephens' PEX meet industry standard certifications?

Jones Stephens' PEX meets all industry standards and certifications, including, but not limited to ASTM F876/F877, NSF/ANSI 14/61/372, CSA B137.5, and UL certification.
PEX piping is subject to a broad range of testing for safety, performance, and material standards to ensure it meets health, quality, and durability requirements. Understanding the standards and certifications for PEX piping helps installers ensure that PEX piping systems are safe and dependable.

Standards and Certifications

What does each ASTM standard mean?

ASTM E84 is a fire-testing standard designed to measure how materials react to fire, focusing on how quickly flames spread and the amount of smoke generated.

ASTM E119/UL 262 are test standards designed to determine how building elements respond to fire exposure, focusing on their ability to maintain structural integrity and contain fire spread.

ASTM E814 is a test standard designed to measure the effectiveness of penetration firestop systems in preventing fire spread through openings in fire-resistant walls and floors.

ASTM F876 specifies the requirements for material, performance, and physical properties of PEX piping.

ASTM F877 specifies the requirements for PEX piping and PEX fittings for hot and cold-water distribution.

ASTM F1807 specifies the requirements for metal insert fittings that use a stainless steel clamp or a copper crimp ring to join PEX piping.

ASTM F1960 specifies the requirements for cold-expansion fittings with PEX reinforcing rings.

ASTM F2023 is a test standard designed to measure the long-term resistance of PEX piping to hot, chlorinated water.

ASTM F2159 specifies the requirements for plastic insert fittings that use a stainless steel clamp or a copper crimp ring to join PEX piping.

ASTM F3347 specifies the requirements for copper alloy metal press insert fittings designed for use with PEX piping.

ASTM F3348 specifies the requirements for plastic press insert fittings with stainless steel press sleeves for use with PEX piping.

What are the various CSA standards?

B125.14 specifies requirements for shutoff valves in size NPS 4 and smaller for use in plumbing systems between the supply stop and meter.

B137.5 specifies the requirements for PEX piping used in pressure applications, like potable water and hydronic heating systems.

B214 specifies guidelines for installation of PEX piping in hydronic heating systems.

NSF/ANSI 14 applies to plastic piping system components and ensures PEX piping meets necessary health and safety standards.

NSF/ANSI 61 ensures that potable PEX piping does not leach harmful contaminants into the water supply.

NSF/ANSI/CAN 372 ensures that PEX piping meets lead content limits.

CAN/ULC S101 are test standards designed to determine how building elements respond to fire exposure, focusing on their ability to maintain structural integrity and contain fire spread.

CAN/ULC S102.2 are test standards to measure the surface flame spread and smoke density of flooring materials and materials that melt, drip, or delaminate.

AWWA C904 is a test standard for PEX piping with a four-digit rating of 1306 or higher, sized 1/2 in. to 3 inches, which is designed for use in underground potable water, reclaimed water, or wastewater service lines.

ICC-ES PMG-1559 is a test standard for PEX-A oxygen barrier piping systems used in closed-loop heating systems.

UPC certification means a product meets the Uniform Plumbing Code, which is an American National Standard.

cUPC certification means a product meets both U.S. and Canadian plumbing standards.

IAMPO/ANSI Z1157 covers the specifics for materials, performance, physical characteristics, testing, and markings of ball valves with a minimum rated working pressure of 860 kPa (125 psi) in sizes NPS ½-4, used in water supply and distribution systems.