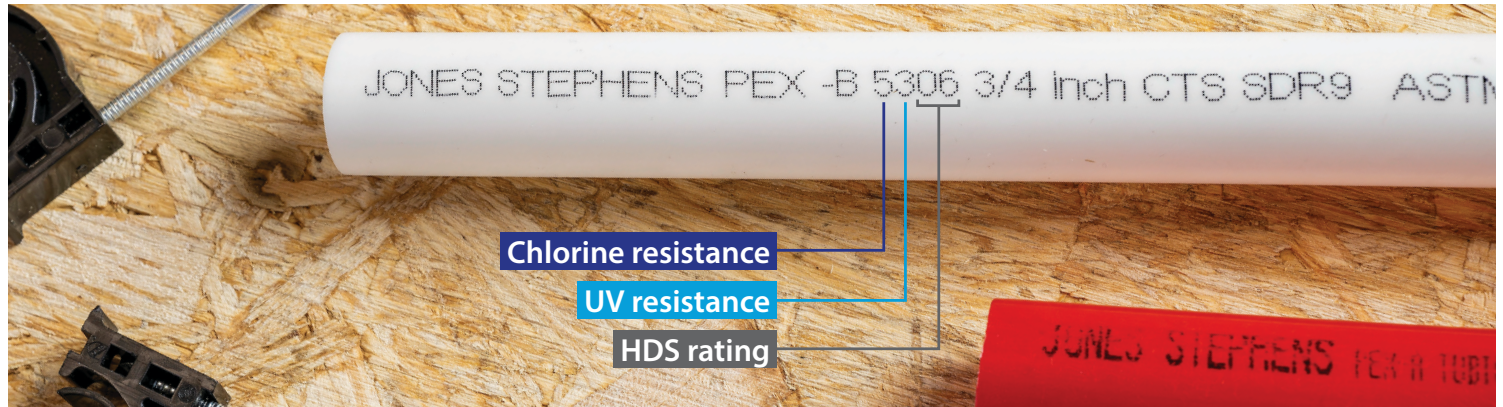


Understanding PEX Ratings and Tube Print Stream

All PEX tubing has a four-digit code printed on each product. The four-digit code, or PEX material designation code, is a requirement of ASTM F876, the standard specifications for PEX tubing. The highest code designation is PEX 5306.



The first number in the code represents chlorine resistance. Chlorine resistance is important in ensuring the longevity of PEX potable water systems. PEX tubing is designed specifically to withstand corrosion from hot chlorine-treated water. For contractors, this resistance to chlorine and the corrosion it can cause is important for hot-water recirculation systems. The chlorine-resistance test methods for PEX tubing are based on ASTM standard F2023.

Code #	Description
0	Not tested or does not meet ASTM F2023 requirements
1	Tested and meets ASTM F876 requirements for minimum chlorine-resistance at end-use conditions of 25% at 140°F and 75% at 73.4°F
2	Reserved for future use
3	Tested and meets ASTM F876 requirements for minimum chlorine-resistance at end-use conditions of 50% at 140°F and 50% at 73.4°F
4	Reserved for future use
5	Tested and meets ASTM F876 requirement for minimum chlorine-resistance at the end-use condition of 100% at 140°F

The second number in the code represents UV resistance. UV resistance is important when PEX tubing is subjected to prolonged periods of sunlight, such as outside at a construction site. PEX tubing can be damaged by excessive UV radiation. For contractors, UV resistance is important to know when planning proper tubing storage and installation. In addition, a high UV resistance rating can give contractors peace of mind after installation, knowing their tubing is stable and dependable. The UV-Resistance test methods for PEX tubing are based on ASTM standard F2657.

Code #	Description
0	Not tested or does not meet ASTM F2657 requirements
1	Tested and meets the ASTM F876 requirement for one month minimum of UV resistance
2	Tested and meets the ASTM F876 requirement for three months minimum of UV resistance
3	Tested and meets the ASTM F876 requirement for six months minimum of UV resistance

The third and fourth numbers represent Hydrostatic Design Stress (HDS). HDS is important because it indicates the tube's long-term strength/pressure capacity at 73°F. For contractors, HDS is important because it determines the safe operating pressure and temperature of the PEX tubing system in real-world conditions, ensuring system design accuracy.

Code #	Description
06	A pressure rating of 160 psi at 73°F