



BARKER • MARTIN

# Plumbing System Defects

Angie Bagby  
**Barker • Martin, P.S.**  
**719 Second Avenue Suite 1200**  
**Seattle, WA**  
[www.barkermartin.com](http://www.barkermartin.com)



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# CPVC -KITEC-PRESSFIT

**CPVC = Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride**



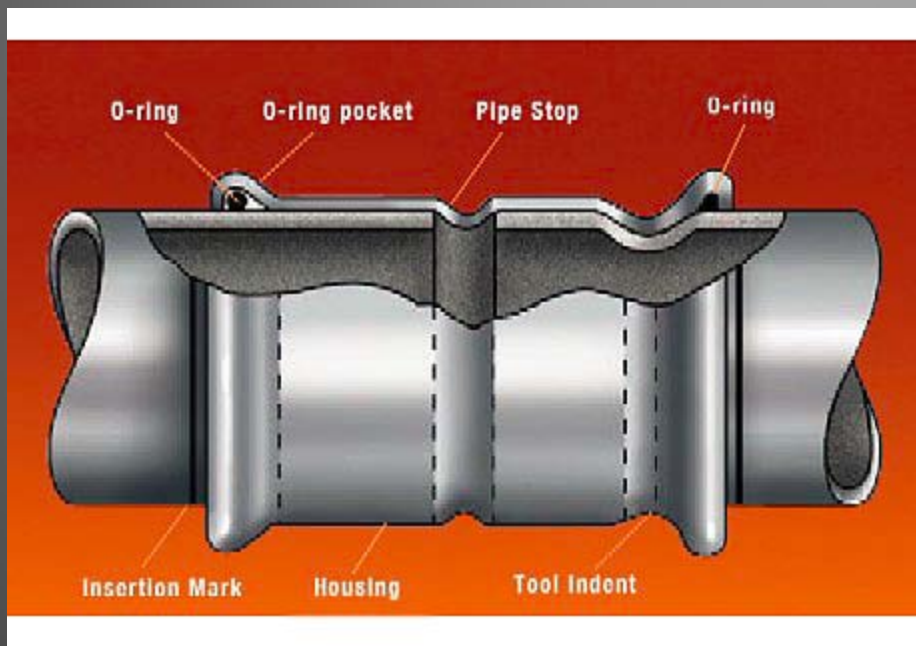
# CPVC-KITEC-PRESSFIT

A flexible plastic & aluminum pipe used for hydronic heating



# CPVC-KITEC-PRESSFIT

**Stainless steel or copper pipes connected by “pressing” them together, fittings contain rubber gaskets or O rings**



# What is CPVC?

- Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride, or “CPVC” is a rigid plastic pipe used for potable water including supplying hot water.





# What is the problem with CPVC?

- Embrittlement
- Discoloration
- Knit Line Fractures

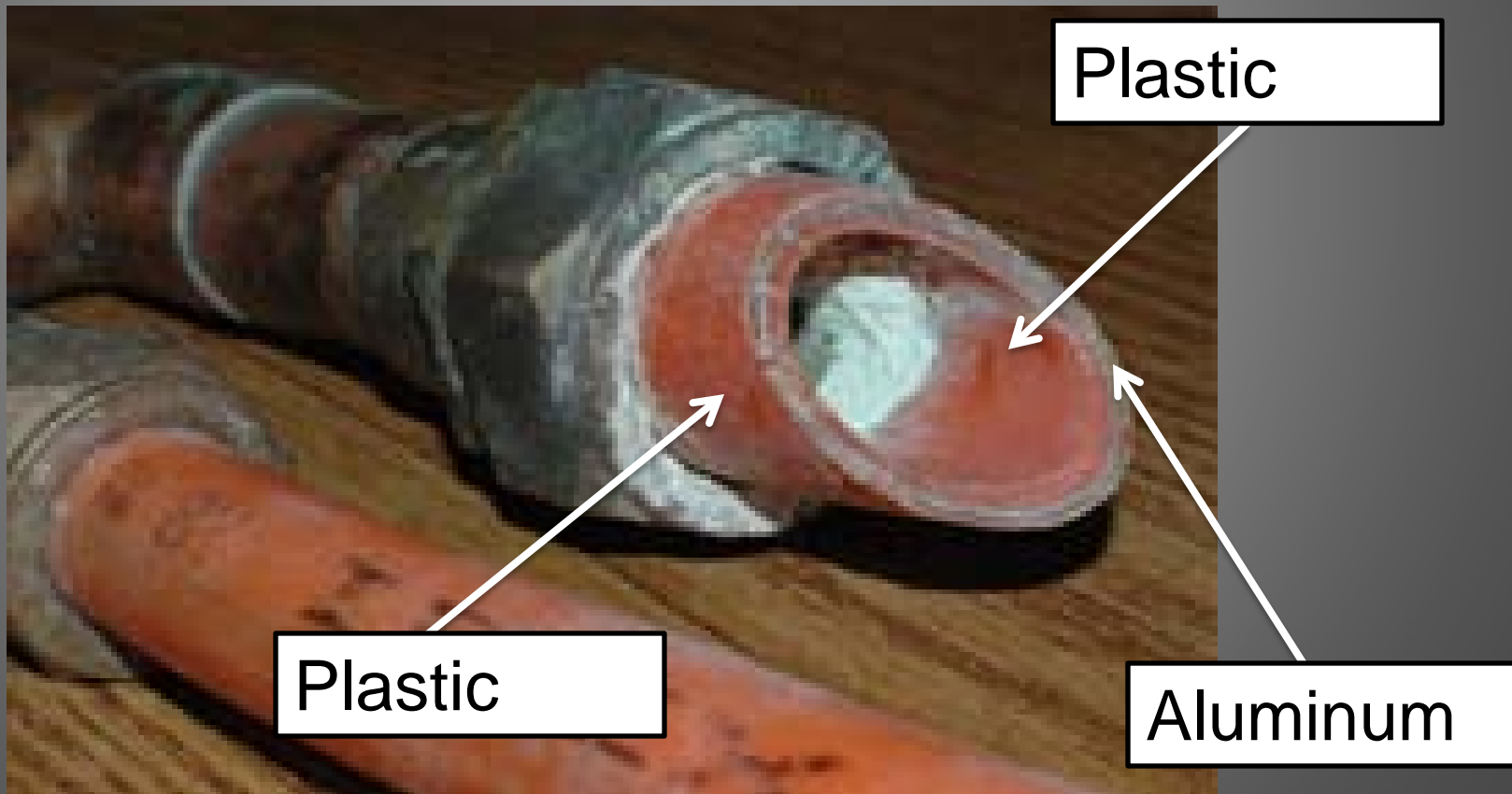


## Kitec Systems



# IPEX KITEC PIPE

## Pex - Al - Pex



# THE PROBLEM

## Kitec Pipe Blisters & Ruptures



# Kitec also uses yellow brass fittings

[Click image to enlarge](#)



Pic 1: Examples of Kitec brass crimp fittings.

[Click image to enlarge](#)



Pic 2: Examples of Kitec brass compression fittings.



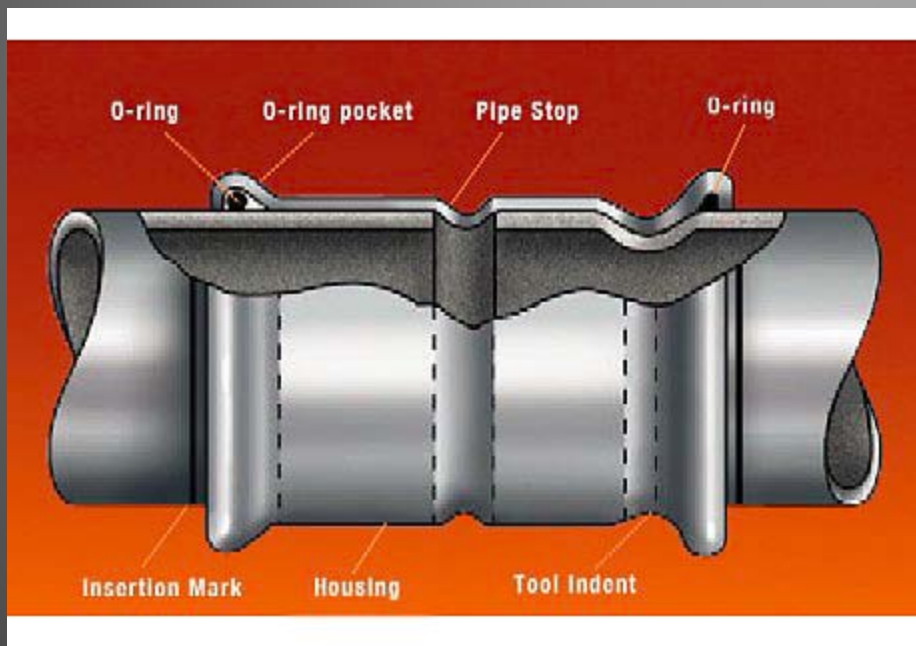


# IPEX Class Action

- Kitec system opt out deadline was September 30, 2011
- Claims settled for US and Canada:  
<http://www.kitecsettlement.com/index.cfm>
- Blue/orange
- Pipes are marked: Kitec, PlumbBetter, IPEX AQUA, WarmRite, Kitec XPA, AmbioComfort, XPA, KERR Controls or Plomberie Améliorée. Fittings are marked: Kitec or KTC

# PRESS FIT

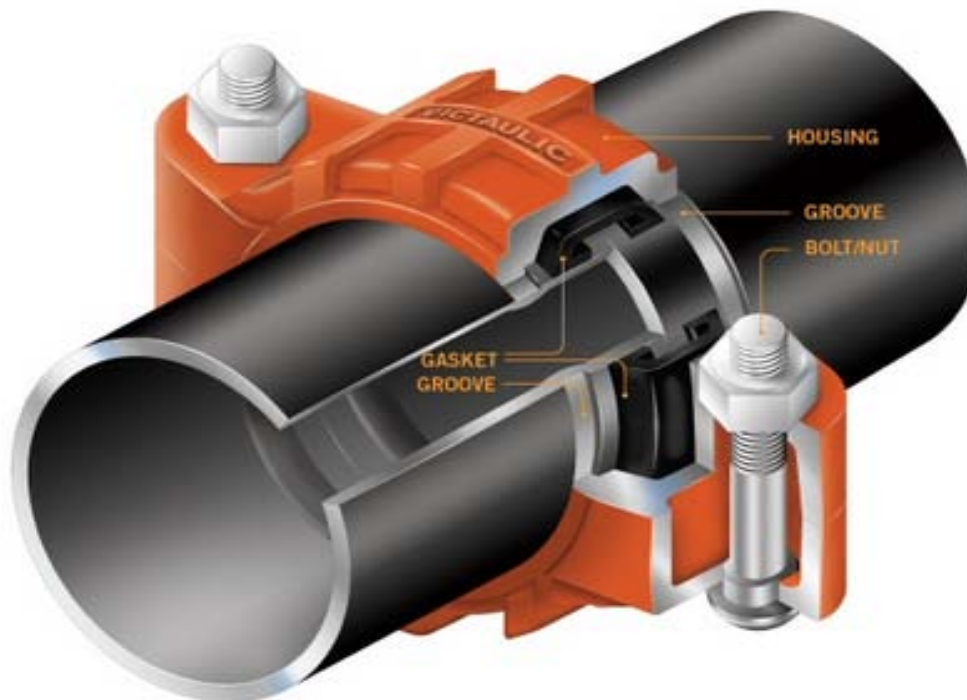
Stainless steel or copper pipes connected by “pressing” them together, fittings contain rubber gaskets or O rings



# Diagram of Grooved Coupling

**A grooved coupling is comprised of four elements:**

- the grooved pipe
- the gasket
- coupling housing
- the nuts and bolts





# Press Fit/Grooved Connections

- Issues alleged relating to O rings and gaskets
  - Cracking
  - Softening
  - Discs in valves may exhibit same problems



# Investigation and Repair Issues

- Initial identification
- Extractions
- Repairs



# Statutes of Limitation Product Liability

RCW 7.72.060

- Useful Safe Life
- 12 Year Presumption
- 3 years from discovery



# Class Action Considerations

- Yellow Brass Claims against Uponor arising out of F1807 fittings are settled
- National and state class actions relating to F1960 fittings are pending.
- Consider your legal options while you still have them.