

SUBJECT: Protecting PowerPEX® Joints

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Buried or Concealed Joints

Sioux Chief permits PowerPEX joints (polymer, brass, and copper) to be buried or concealed. Sioux Chief recommends that threaded connections never be buried or concealed as they must be accessible for periodic inspection, per building codes. The requirement to wrap a PowerPEX joint can depend on many factors including location and the presence of other materials that contact or can come in contact with the joint.

When wrapping a PowerPEX joint, the following is required:

- Wrap the joint, ensuring a minimum of 50% overlap of the tape
- Avoid wrinkles or kinks in the tape and ensure the joint is completely covered, extending onto the pipe as necessary
- Indicate the location of each joint as required on the “as-built” drawings

Note:

Linerless black rubber tape (e.g. Scotch® 2242) is recommended for wrapping PEX joints. Do not use other types of tapes (e.g. duct tape, standard electrical tape) to wrap the joint, as chemicals in the adhesive may not be compatible with the polymer fitting material or the PEX tube.

Use CAUTION when using heat-shrink tubing, as high temperatures produced by a heat gun can cause damage to PEX tubing and may cause it to pull away from the fitting.

Concealed in inaccessible locations:

When PowerPEX joints are concealed but are still in open air space (e.g. behind drywall), it is not necessary to wrap the joint. However, the installer should ensure the fittings do not come in contact with chemicals (e.g. PVC glues, solvents, cements) that could damage the fitting material. For more information on chemical compatibility (of polymer fittings), see Technical Bulletin #SPLY-2102b. If it is determined that the joint should be protected, use linerless black rubber tape.

Buried in a concrete slab or in the sub-base underneath the slab:

Sioux Chief does NOT recommend burying PowerPEX joints in concrete slabs. If joints must be buried in a concrete slab, or in the sub-base beneath the slab, they must be wrapped. In addition, the location of the joint should be marked and indicated on building drawings. Use linerless black rubber tape.

Buried in soil:

When burying PowerPEX joints in soil, outside of a structure, the joint must be wrapped. Use linerless black rubber tape.

With foaming agents:

Some spray-foam insulation products are approved for use with PEX tube and fittings. It is the responsibility of the installing contractor to refer to information provided by the insulation manufacturer and verify compatibility of any foam or chemical foaming agents that will come into contact with PowerPEX tube and fittings, including polymer PowerPEX fittings made from Solvay Acudel® PPSU material. If insulation manufacturer recommends wrapping PEX tube joints before application, use linerless black rubber tape.

Note:

If linerless black rubber tape is not available, the following tapes have also been approved for protecting PowerPEX joints:

- 3M™ Temflex™ Rubber Splicing Tape 2155 or Temflex™ Cotton Friction Tape 1755
- Scotch® Rubber Splicing Tape 23 or Linerless Rubber Splicing Tape 130C

The information contained herein is believed to be reliable, but is subject to change without notice. Before use or installation, the user shall determine the suitability of the information for the intended purpose, and shall assume all risk and liability in connection therewith. With the exception of the information given above, use of any/all Sioux Chief product shall be in accordance with local plumbing codes, common practices, published installation instructions and legal requirements.