

PVC PIPE ASSOCIATION ISSUE BRIEF

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PVC PIPE INDUSTRY

PVC is the number one pipe material used today, with over two million miles in service. Over 48% of the pipe used for water and wastewater, storm and drainage systems is made of PVC.

PVC PIPE INDUSTRY SERVES A VAST AND COMPLEX MARKET

- 54,000 drinking water systems
- 10,000 water treatment facilities
- 15,000 sewer and water contracting firms
- Over 70 independent distributors of waterworks/wastewater products
- 2008 market-wide sales in excess of \$5.5 billion
- Employment in the industry was over 7,000 in 2008

PLASTICS SIXTH LARGEST U.S. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF SHIPMENTS

- 25 PVC pipe producers account for 93 (21.6%) of 429 U.S. plastic pipe and pipe fitting plants.
- Extrusion facilities for PVC pipe are found across the U.S. and in 32 of 50 states. California has the most plants (9), followed by Texas (6), Arizona (5) and Pennsylvania (5). Another 23 plants are in Puerto Rico, Canada and Mexico.

IMPACTS ON JOBS

PVC water and sewer pipe producers contribute to more than \$14 billion of current annual output in America, supporting over 25,000 jobs in downstream and related contracting, distribution and utility organizations.

SUSTAINABLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE

- Pipe represents the largest component of a utility's infrastructure assets. Building and replacing water and sewage lines across the U.S. will cost some \$660 billion to \$1.1 trillion over the next 20 years. PVC piping is cost-effective, corrosion-proof, easy to install, long-lasting with excellent structural strength and watertight joints.
- Corrosion causes over 850 daily water main breaks throughout North America. A 2002 congressional study confirms that corrosion costs U.S. drinking water and sewer systems \$50.7 billion a year. Use of more sustainable materials like PVC could save U.S. taxpayers billions of dollars annually.
- Savings from PVC now used in U.S. sanitary sewer systems are estimated to be \$270 million a year, or \$1.5 trillion over the next 100 years. Converting the entire U.S. sanitary sewer system to PVC pipe could yield \$800 million in annual savings and as much as \$4.5 trillion over the next century.
- A 2007 Vinyl Institute study estimates the total yearly savings of PVC pipe currently used in the North American water and wastewater sector to be upwards of \$4.2 billion.
- Widespread use of PVC pipe would save an additional \$4.1 billion dollars per year in electricity wasted by pumping water through leaky and broken pipes. Leaking pipes made from old-technology materials lose an estimated 2.6 trillion gallons of drinking water annually in the U.S.