

# CASE STUDY

CENTRAL FLORIDA'S MIKE SCOTT PLUMBING  
BENEFITS FROM FLOWGUARD® BENDABLE  
COMPOSITE PIPE FOR UNDERSLAB AND  
SPECIALTY APPLICATIONS SINCE 2006

**Mike Scott Plumbing**  
Ocala, Florida



**Innovative, seamless, corrosion-resistant product reduces installation time and eliminates joints**

Given the soil conditions throughout Florida, it comes as no surprise that most of the homes are built on slabs. Shawn Scott, vice president at Mike Scott Plumbing in Ocala, Florida has seen more than his share of underslab projects. The 85-employee company, which his father started more than 25 years ago, is one of the largest plumbing contractors in the area, having pulled more permits than any other contractor in the state within the last year.

Scott recognizes the importance of a plumbing system with a proven track record of working reliably underslab. The need for a reliable product was what originally led the company to switch to FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings more than 15 years ago. "We haven't used copper plumbing underslab for more than 15 years due to concerns about corrosion," said Scott. "We just can't afford to take chances like that. And PEX has never been an option for us, either. It looks like crap coming out of the slab and you can't control it; it winds up hitting you in the back of the head."

However, Scott is comfortable installing joints under slab when using FlowGuard Gold pipe and fittings. "We've had FlowGuard Gold joints underslab for more than 15 years without any problems and view the solvent cement joint underslab as a reliable solution."

The challenge for Scott's business is convincing area builders and engineers of the reliability of CPVC joints underslab. "Professionals who have been in the business a long time still often perceive metal as being more durable, even though experience in the field tells a different story," said Scott.

In 2006, FBC™ Building Solutions introduced its innovative FlowGuard® Bendable Composite Pipe. It combines the corrosion resistance of CPVC with the strength and durability of aluminum and Scott was eager to put the new product to the test.

"I think we were one of the first contractors in the state to try FlowGuard Bendable piping," said Scott. "Over the last few years, we have successfully used it on more than 40 projects. Most of the installations were on homes, but we have also used it recently for light commercial work, including doctors' offices and plumbing for a local auto parts retailer."

*"Even though I was completely comfortable with FlowGuard Gold CPVC joints underslab, now I have a product that doesn't allow for any questions from a builder or engineer with regard to joints, because there aren't any."*



**Type of Construction:**  
Single Family

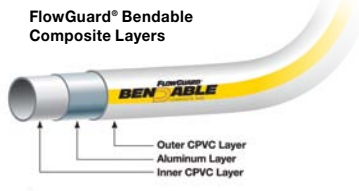
**Installation Type:**  
New

**FBC**  
Building Solutions



FlowGuard® Bendable piping, available in straight lengths or coils, is ideal for other applications beyond underslab wherever flexibility is beneficial. This includes applications such as trap primers, shower risers and water service supply lines. It is installed using a reliable solvent cement joining system with an insert fitting that prevents galvanic corrosion and enables the use of familiar FlowGuard Gold fittings.

The multiple layers of the composite pipe are bonded with an adhesive specially formulated to achieve a pressure rating of 100 psi at 180°F.



Although much of Scott's experience with FlowGuard Bendable Composite Pipe is for underslab applications, he also finds it ideal for plumbing residential island sinks and cabinet sinks at various medical facilities. He refers to it as an "all-trades friendly pipe" because its flexibility makes it easier for other trades, especially carpenters, to work around it and get their jobs done on-time.

"I love this rolled product," said Scott. "Even though I was completely comfortable with FlowGuard Gold CPVC joints underslab, now I have a product that doesn't allow for any questions from a builder or engineer with regard to joints, because there aren't any. The installation process is so fast and there is no need for couplings on long runs. Plus, it stays in position. I feel it provides better water flow than PEX because it bends in more of a sweeping curve which maintains the momentum of the water."

Though he commonly installs joints under slab, Scott often recommends FlowGuard Bendable composite pipe as the product of choice for many residential and light commercial projects.

"This product has helped my business by allowing me to effectively fight against copper specs," said Scott. "I've tried soft copper in the past. It was a disaster between the kinking and the pinhole leaks. Sometimes I needed to repair eight-to-ten projects per week involving soft copper underslab. That kept me very busy. In addition, I've had copper stolen from the job site. That's another problem eliminated by using FlowGuard Gold products."



Scott added, "Beyond the product benefits, it's the brand name that matters. The FlowGuard Gold brand really means something in this business on both the residential and commercial sides. Many customers specifically ask for it over a more generic brand."

Since Lubrizol Advanced Materials, Inc. (as part of BFGoodrich Performance Materials) developed CPVC plumbing systems over 50 years ago, more than four billion feet of CPVC pipe has been installed in homes, condominiums, buildings, apartments and hotels, including more than 12 million homes. For more information on the FBC piping systems, including pipes, valves, joining cement, caulks, sealants and tools, call 888.234.2436, ext. 4477393, or visit [www.fbcbuildingsolutions.com](http://www.fbcbuildingsolutions.com).



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