

CASE STUDY

MYERS PLUMBING INSTALLS FLOWGUARD GOLD® CPVC PIPE UNDER EXTREME TIME CONSTRAINT

Myers Plumbing

Nashville, Tennessee

Established: 1978

Quick, Easy Product Installation Enables Plumber To Avoid Costly Deadline Penalties Without Sacrificing Quality at the University of California-Davis Campus

Nashville, Tennessee-based Myers Plumbing has learned the ins and outs of student housing construction through more than 25 years of successful installation experience in this fast-paced, growing segment. A leading national plumbing contractor, the company has also installed a variety of high-performance systems for retirement centers, hotels, restaurants and commercial offices in more than 20 states.



The professionals at Myers learned early on that success in most on- and off-campus student housing projects depends on the quick and easy installation of reliable, quality pipe and fittings. After all, school schedules are fixed and cannot accommodate construction delays when students arrive each fall. So when Myers was hired in early 2003 to install plumbing systems in a six-building, 168-unit student housing complex (named Sterling University Vista to be built near the University of California-Davis campus), the decision was made to specify FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings for the job.

Project timing was particularly tight: To enable student move-ins by the September 20 deadline, Myers was faced with the task of completing a year-long set of installations in almost half that amount of time. For each day that completion was delayed beyond the start of school, the company would face a \$25,000 penalty.

"From the day we got to the construction site on February 3, we knew that students would have to move in by the September deadline," said T.J. Daley, Job Superintendent for Myers Plumbing. "Every student housing job I've worked on has been extremely fast-paced, and

Sterling University Vista was no different. There were no exceptions to not meeting the deadline; it was simply unacceptable to do so."

Given this strict time constraint, it was vitally important that the plumbing system specified for each building be exceptionally quick and easy to install without sacrificing quality. The original project specifications as set forth by the general contractor called for copper pipe and fittings, but Myers realized that the time and effort needed to install copper made it unfeasible. "The FlowGuard Gold® system was the only one that could have been used for this job," said Daley. "We could not have used copper – it would have taken at least four times longer for us to put it in."

FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings are solvent welded quickly and firmly, helping to keep project schedules on time. And since no torches are needed on the job site, installations are safer. Additionally, the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system will never pit, scale or corrode regardless of water quality, which greatly reduces the risk of callbacks, premature failures and costly re-piping.

Based on more than 40 years of in-field testing and actual installations, FlowGuard Gold® CPVC plumbing systems have been proven to maintain water quality and full water carrying capacity throughout their entire life spans. The system is also considerably quieter, more energy efficient and creates fewer condensation problems than copper.

Daley first became aware of the advantages of FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings while working for a contractor in Florida who used it exclusively over copper for a variety of residential and commercial applications. "They swore by it, and they said they'd never go back to copper," he remembered. "I was kind of skeptical back then, but as I started to use it, I found that it withstands temperature variations as well as copper ever has, it doesn't damage like copper does, and it's much faster and easier to assemble than copper."

Despite the ease of installation, affordability and reliability of FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings, California's plumbing code has been slow to fully embrace the technology of CPVC (chlorinated polyvinyl chloride). California remains the only state that restricts the use of CPVC pipe except in cases where aggressive soil or water conditions mandate it or where approved by code officials. Company President Charlie Myers



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Type of Construction:
Educational

Installation Type:
New

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knew this at the outset of the Sterling project but also realized that the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system was clearly the best option for a job that necessitated quick installation. "FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings was a superior product, and we knew that it could be assembled quickly at the site," he said.



Daley continued, "The plumbing code in California, and particularly in Davis, is very strict, and change doesn't come easy," he said. "The California code was created 40 years ago. Since then, there's been enough testing on non-metallic systems like the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system to prove that there are better, more efficient products."

Based on Myers' recommendations, the general contractor worked with the regional FlowGuard Gold® pipe & fittings piping consultant to develop an alternate plumbing specification plan. They then presented it to building and plumbing inspectors in Davis, arguing that installation of FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings in each building would keep the overall project on schedule and result in greater reliability, quieter operation and more consistent water quality. Although tests were conducted that showed the site had aggressive water conditions, the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system was recommended on its own merits. City officials agreed and since then, FlowGuard Gold® plumbing systems have received approval for additional projects in Davis, Fresno and San Bernardino.

Utilizing an average of 20 plumbers who worked 10 to 12-hour shifts for nearly eight months straight, Daley's crew was able to complete the installation of FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings at the Sterling complex in time for the September 20 student move-in deadline. According to him, such an undertaking simply would not have been possible with a copper system. "To put copper pipe together, you have to first clean the fitting, then clean the end of the pipe and then solder the fitting," Daley explained. "With FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings, all you're doing is solvent cementing the pipe to the end of the fitting, and that's it. The whole process takes almost no time, and that made it possible to get this project done on schedule.

"Often, when you put a ferrous and non-ferrous metal together, as is the case with copper piping, you'll get corrosion," Daley added. "But there's no corrosion of any kind with the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system."

Myers shares a similar view of copper. "Most of the water systems in California draw from wells, and we've heard horror stories where copper piping was used," he said. "We've installed CPVC for more than 15 years and never had a problem. Whenever we can get it approved, we'll use FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings."

In summarizing his experience with the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system at Sterling University Vista, Daley cited its ease of installation and reliability as factors that helped to ensure a successful project. "I'll work 80 to 90 hours a week on jobs like these, so it's important to know that what we're installing can be assembled quickly and won't cause problems in the future," he said. "I've never had callbacks from using the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system, and I don't anticipate them with the Sterling project. It makes it much, much easier to make a profit, and it's definitely more profitable than copper."

Since Lubrizol's development of CPVC plumbing systems over 45 years ago, more than three (3) billion feet of CPVC pipe has been installed in homes, condominiums, buildings, apartments and hotels, including twelve (12) million homes. For more information on the FlowGuard Gold® plumbing system, including pipes, valves, joining cement, caulks, sealants and tools, call 1-888-234-2436, X7393, or visit www.flowguardgold.com.

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