

CASE STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS DARTMOUTH
ADDS MORE THAN 1,400 DORM BATHROOMS
IN RECORD TIME

NB Kenney Company

Devens, Massachusetts

Established: 1970

Contractor Chooses FlowGuard Gold® and Corzan® CPVC Pipe as Only Means to Meet Tight Construction Schedule; Saves Nearly \$300,000

In Massachusetts where the state plumbing code still restricts construction to six stories high, there are few projects larger than the new addition at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. The university, which is a part of a five-campus system, undertook construction of six new four-story dormitories in the fall of 2004 to meet the school's projected growing need for on-campus housing for nearly 3,900 students.



A mammoth undertaking by all accounts, the new dorm project represented a particular challenge for the plumbing contractor, NB Kenney Company, Inc., located in Devens, Massachusetts. Each of the six buildings houses 239 bathrooms for a total of 1,434 new bathrooms that needed to be completed in less than eight months. The plumbing portion of the project alone was estimated at \$11 million.

NB Kenney, a large plumbing and HVAC contractor specializing in commercial, industrial and residential high-rise projects since 1970, was well equipped to handle the massive assignment. They utilized between 80 and 100 union plumbers on the job site working together at one time in order to complete the project on time.

"It was a lot of plumbing to be done in a short period of time," noted Steve Kenney, vice president at NB Kenney. "There was no way we could meet the university's deadline using copper pipe. We had heard that CPVC offered a much faster installation method, so we knew it was our best choice for this tight-turnaround project."

Fortunately for the thousands of students waiting for dorm space, the project was finished on time. The university was so desperate for added space that it started moving students in as soon as each individual building was finished.

"They couldn't afford to wait for the entire project to be finished," said Kenney. "As we started working on building two, students had already moved in and filled up building one. It was an incredible process."

To meet the university's specifications, Kenney chose to use Corzan® CPVC pipe and fittings for the mains and risers in 2-1/2", 3" and 4" sizes. FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings was used in the dorm rooms.

For many of the plumbers working on site, it was their first experience with CPVC pipe. According to Kenney, the idea of using an alternative

material caused a considerable amount of skepticism initially. But by the end of the project, after they had experienced the fast and easy installation processes firsthand, Kenney heard nothing but praise for the Corzan and FlowGuard Gold CPVC products. University officials had no problem with the new concept because it conformed to the Massachusetts State Plumbing Code.

"We submitted CPVC pipe as the basis of our design to the university primarily because of the product's ease and speed of installation," said Kenney. "Our company had already proven itself as being able to successfully handle high-profile projects with tough completion schedules, including about a dozen university projects. So the university readily accepted our recommendation on this project."

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Type of Construction:
Educational

Installation Type:
New

CORZAN®
PIPING SYSTEMS
FLOWGUARD GOLD®



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The labor savings realized by using Corzan and FlowGuard Gold CPVC pipe and fittings is primarily the result of the solvent cement joining system which eliminates the need for soldering. Not only is installation faster, but cleanup time is also reduced since there are no oils, metal debris or heavy equipment to remove. (These same installation advantages caused the university to also choose a CPVC fire sprinkler system—specifically a BlazeMaster® CPVC system.)

For the university, the accelerated installation process meant having completed dorms on time. For NB Kenney, it also meant an estimated cost savings of \$200,000 – \$300,000 as a result of not using metal.



Additional benefits of CPVC pipe include its superior thermal properties, which translate into improved energy efficiency, less condensation and minimal noise. An NSF International test, in fact, confirmed that FlowGuard Gold CPVC pipe is four times quieter than metal relative to water flow noise, and it almost completely eliminates water hammer. Noise reduction is a major advantage in dormitory applications where residents may be woke up in the middle of the night from the sound of banging pipes in the next room caused by a late night trip to the bathroom or shower.

Equally important is the fact that CPVC pipe will never pit, scale or corrode, which minimizes maintenance concerns, increases the service life of the system and enhances performance reliability. System performance

was already put to the test since dormitory construction at the university ran through the winter months. Dartmouth is only 15 miles from Cape Cod, so cold winters are not uncommon. Yet, installation and testing proceeded on schedule.

“The pressure from the general contractor and the university to get this project completed was intense,” said Kenney. “We couldn’t afford any delays or problems. Had we not used CPVC pipe, it would have been much harder to complete the project on time.”

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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