

CASE STUDY

PITTSBURGH PLUMBING CONTRACTOR CAPITALIZES ON THE ADVANTAGES OF FLOWGUARD GOLD® PIPE & FITTINGS

Ryco, Inc

Western PA

Established: 1984

Multiple Assisted/Independent Living Communities Completed On-Time and Within Budget Due to Ease of Installation

Ryco, Inc., a mid-sized commercial plumbing and fire sprinkler contractor based in western Pennsylvania, recognizes that a competitive bid is critical to securing work in the commercial arena. That coupled with the ability to complete a job on time is what has led to the company's success in the design-build business.

Since 1984, Ryco has completed a wide variety of commercial and institutional projects with a specialization in the development of nursing homes and multi-family units. During that time, President Tim Sherry has worked hard to find ways to keep his projects on time and within budget to help him earn a reputation for reliability.



"The plumbing industry is slow to change," noted Sherry. "You don't see a lot of revolutionary new products being used in the business, so when one does come along that provides tremendous value at a lower cost, you have to consider it."

In 1999, Sherry had his first experience with FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings when a Cleveland-based contractor specified them for a multi-family facility being plumbed by Ryco.

"There definitely was some skepticism within our ranks," said Sherry. "We had, of course, heard about the problems with polybutylene. But the training my people received from the FlowGuard Gold® CPVC reps helped provide peace of mind by demonstrating that not all plastics perform the same."



Today, Sherry recommends FlowGuard Gold® CPVC systems for the nursing homes, assisted living facilities and multi-family housing projects he bids. In the first quarter of 2002, he completed two Redstone Highlands assisted/independent living communities in western Pennsylvania using FlowGuard Gold® plumbing systems.

Measuring approximately 190,000 square feet each at a value of \$18 million per community, the Redstone Highlands facilities (two of five in the area) were built using CPVC pipe that ranged in size from 1/2" to 4". For those applications requiring larger than 2" pipe, Corzan® CPVC pipe was installed. In addition, BlazeMaster® CPVC fire sprinkler systems were installed because of their ease of installation and overall cost savings.

"Whenever we're able to work with the owner of a project in conjunction with the general contractor, I find that the cost savings achieved with the CPVC system really makes the difference," noted Sherry. "With CPVC, we're able to offer a more cost-efficient alternative without sacrificing quality. When owners take the time to analyze the cost comparisons, they usually go with the CPVC product."

Sherry explained that the cost savings are derived from both the lower material cost and tremendous labor savings. "The labor savings was the biggest benefit that caught my attention," said Sherry.

Both a FlowGuard Gold® CPVC system and a BlazeMaster fire sprinkler system are faster and easier to install than metallic systems because they are light weight and do not require soldering or threading. An exclusive, one-step solvent cement is used to create a lasting bond within minutes.

"Furthermore, the cost of copper, and especially the way the cost can vary, is a definite drawback with metallic systems," added Sherry. "I've found the FlowGuard Gold® material cost to be more consistent and competitive."

Additionally, Sherry recognized further cost savings based on the fact that FlowGuard Gold® pipe and fittings don't sweat as much as metallic systems, which may eliminate the time and expense of insulation.

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Type of Construction:
Health Care Facility

Installation Type:
New

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"I also found the noise reduction to be a plus," Sherry commented. Because of the thermoplastic properties of CPVC, it minimizes water flow noise and virtually eliminates water hammer. Tests conducted by NSF International have confirmed the FlowGuard Gold® system to be four times quieter than copper.

"The FlowGuard Gold® CPVC product makes a lot of sense for a number of applications," noted Sherry. "For the owner, it's a cost savings. For the maintenance people, it means easier tie-ins. For me, it's a faster, easier installation with fewer concerns regarding sweating."

In 2001, Ryco completed eight commercial projects featuring FlowGuard Gold® CPVC pipe and fittings. Sherry fully expects his use of the high-performance product to increase as opportunities arise.

"As word spreads about the benefits, I think more people will be asking for a FlowGuard Gold® system," commented Sherry. "It's really a great product!"

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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