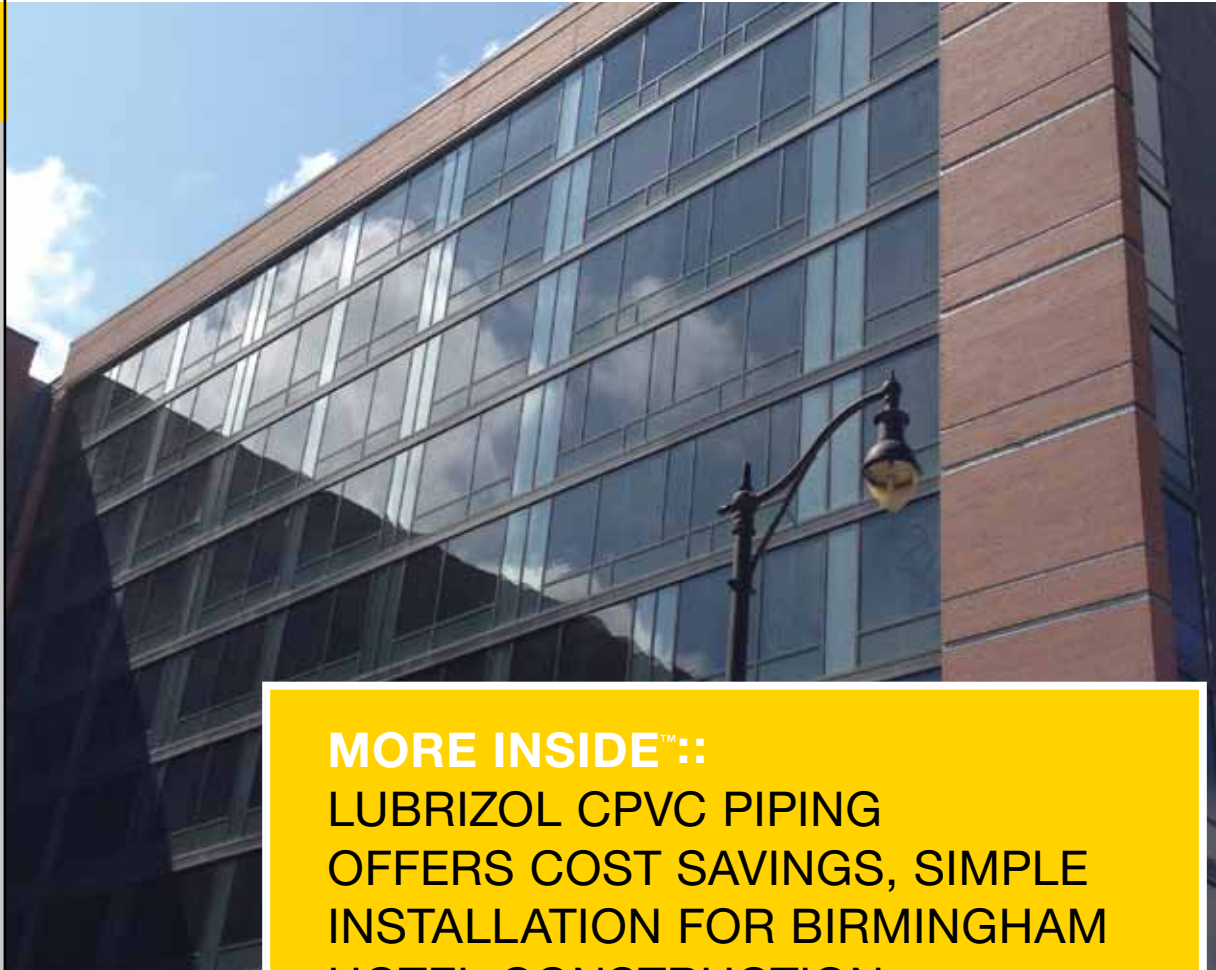


## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- Plumbing system in high-profile, 290-room hotel in Birmingham, Ala., designed using Lubrizon CPVC piping technology, despite significant lobbying to use competing materials
- Copper piping seen as too expensive, too likely to be stolen and too susceptible to corrosion
- Polypropylene (PP-R) piping seen as much more difficult and expensive to install than CPVC
- Choosing Lubrizon CPVC technology helped hotel chain stay on schedule and on budget for its project



## MORE INSIDE™ :: LUBRIZOL CPVC PIPING OFFERS COST SAVINGS, SIMPLE INSTALLATION FOR BIRMINGHAM HOTEL CONSTRUCTION

To accommodate the influx of conference attendees visiting the new Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) in Birmingham, Ala., a major global hotel chain began construction in 2011 of a 290-room, nine-story, \$50 million hotel. With city officials deeply invested in the success of the project, and local media closely monitoring the construction progress, the hotel decision makers were committed to making sure the hotel was ready on budget and on time. This dedication influenced every facet of the project design, construction and installation process, including the choice of plumbing system materials.

Plumbing Systems, Inc., a Florida-based company with substantial experience installing high-rise plumbing systems, was tasked with installing the new hotel's piping systems, and Vice President Kris Martin, oversaw the project. "This was the number one development project in Birmingham, and it was important to everyone that it was done right," he explained. "A number of piping materials were considered, but ultimately the most cost-effective, easy-to-install and best-supported piping solution was chosen for the job: CPVC technology from The Lubrizon Corporation."



*“Besides making great products, Lubrizol materials are all well supported.”*

*– Kris Martin  
Plumbing Systems, Inc.*

Copper was originally specified for the Birmingham project, but was quickly abandoned as a viable plumbing material for a number of reasons. As explained by Martin, “Copper is just too valuable. It’s expensive to purchase, and the street value at which someone can sell stolen copper is extremely high. We were able to achieve significant cost savings by using CPVC and didn’t have to worry about theft.”

Polypropylene (PP-R) piping was also strongly considered as a plumbing system material. According to Martin, “PP-R was a realistic option; there was a lot of lobbying to specify it for this project. We were opposed to installing it, however, based on our past experience. CPVC was significantly cheaper than PP-R. About two-thirds was saved on material costs by switching from copper to CPVC, whereas the hotel owners would have only saved about 12 percent had they switched to PP-R. CPVC is much less expensive to install, as well. It costs around \$3,000 for the two tools required to join one-inch to one and a half-inch PP-R pipe, and it can cost \$12,000-\$15,000 for the equipment required to install larger pipe. Solvent cement used to bond CPVC pipe costs a fraction of this amount.”

Martin continued, “It’s more of a task to install PP-R piping than CPVC, too. Installing a six-inch joint twenty feet up high via the melting techniques required for PP-R is no easy task.” Using PP-R can mean delays, too. “If your joining machine breaks,” Martin explained, “installation has to be halted. Using solvent cement to join CPVC means never having to worry about additional problems related to metric system sizing, import costs and increased lead times to allow for shipping. CPVC piping, alternatively, is widely available.”

Ultimately, Lubrizol’s FlowGuard Gold® and Corzan® Piping Systems were chosen for the new hotel’s plumbing system. “We were relieved Lubrizol CPVC technology was eventually specified. We have installed FlowGuard Gold and Corzan Piping Systems in 30 to 40 high-rise towers in the past. We have been installing products based on Lubrizol CPVC technology for 10-12 years, and about 90 percent of what we use is FlowGuard Gold or Corzan Piping Systems; we only use other products if we don’t have a choice,” Martin explained.

“Besides making great products, Lubrizol materials are all well supported, too,” Martin reflected. “The representatives at Lubrizol are very responsive; the training they provide is wonderful, and it is very easy to attain. You don’t necessarily get that with other piping material manufacturers. We’ve never had any significant problems since we began installing FlowGuard Gold and Corzan Piping Systems, and we don’t anticipate any with this project. These are great products to work with, and we’re pleased to be installing this type of system in Birmingham.”

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