

## **Milestones in PVC Sewer Pipe History**

***Technology and performance have made PVC pipe the most popular choice for water and sewer lines.***

1932 – First tubes were made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) in Germany.

1935 – The first PVC pipes were manufactured (Germany).

**1936 – PVC pipes began to be installed for residential drinking water distribution and waste pipelines (Germany). Most are still in service.**

1949 – Initial use of PVC pipe in North America.

1952 – PVC pipe introduced in the U.S.

**1952 – First PVC wastewater pipes laid in the U.S.**

1960 – Original publication of ASTM D1785 – Standard Specification for PVC Plastic Pipe, Schedules 40, 80, and 120.

1964 - Original publication of ASTM D2321 - Standard Practice for Underground Installation of Flexible Thermoplastic Sewer Pipe.

1971 – First meeting (Oct. in Philadelphia) of the non-profit, Integral Gasketed Joint Plastic Pipe Association (re-named the Uni-Bell Plastic Pipe Association in April 1972). Headquarters were located in New York City. (We have a 7 x 10, B&W photo of the meeting.)

**1972 – Original publication of ASTM D3034 - Standard Specification for Type PSM Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Sewer Pipe and Fittings**

1972 - Passage of the Water Pollution Control Act by Congress.

1976 – Uni-Bell moves to Dallas, Texas and hires full-time Director.

**1977 – Publication of the first edition of the Uni-Bell Handbook of PVC Pipe – Design and Construction.**

1977 - Passage of the Clean Water Act by Congress

1979 - Diameters available for PVC sewer pipe increase to 18 inches.

- 1979 - The introduction of UNI-B-6, "Recommended Practice for Low-Pressure Air Testing of Installed Sewer Pipe," makes it possible to more quickly test the integrity of installed sewer systems in a standardized manner.
- 1980 - Diameters available for PVC sewer pipe increase to 21 inches.
- 1980 - Original publication of ASTM F679 - Standard Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Large-Diameter Plastic Gravity Sewer Pipe and Fittings.
- 1982 - Original publication of UNI-B-9, "Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Profile Wall Gravity Sewer Pipe and Fittings Based on Controlled Inside Diameter (Nominal Diameters 4 - 48 Inch)"
- 1983 - Original publication of ASTM F794 - Standard Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Profile Gravity Sewer Pipe and Fittings
- 1983 - Length of PVC sanitary collector sewer pipe grows to 30,000 miles, a ten fold increase over a ten year period. PVC share of the sanitary sewer collector market is estimated to be 80%.
- 1985 - Original publication of ASTM F949 - Standard Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Corrugated Sewer Pipe With a Smooth Interior and Fittings
- 1989 - Fifteen year old PVC sewer pipe tests-out like new.
- 1993 - PVC enters the trenchless market with a sliplining product.
- 1995 - Triple wall PVC sewer pipe, with a middle layer of recycled material, installed in San Diego, California.
- 1997 - Closed profile pipe gets its own profile standard with publication of ASTM F1803, "Standard Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Closed Profile Gravity Pipe and Fittings Based on Controlled Inside Diameter". Standard offers diameters up to sixty inches.
- 1997 - European study of exhumed sewer pipe up to 30 years old show pipe as good as the day it was installed.
- 2005 – PVC is the largest volume plastic pipe material in North America with annual sales in excess of 6.8 billion pounds in 2005.

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