Perplexed About PEX Flexible Plumbing Pipe?

In most plumbing systems, shutting off the water to one leaky pipe means shutting off
the whole system. PEX (Crosslink Polyethylene) systems, unlike other plumbing systems,
allow you to shut off the water to a single fixture within the home, and can greatly reduce
the inconvenience of plumbing problems. Lowe’s is happy to provide this information as a
service to you.

The Advantages of PEX

• PEX is one of the most versatile, easy-to-use plumbing systems available:

• PEX pipe is suitable for use with hot or cold water. With the proper adapters, PEX pipe
can be used with steel, copper, PVC and CPVC plumbing pipe.

• PEX is the most flexible plumbing pipe available. It can be bent around most corners
without a coupling or fitting. For example, 3/8” pipe may be bent to a 4” radius and 1/2” pipe to a 5” radius.

• Most plumbing leaks and system failures occur at joints in fittings. Since PEX requires fewer fittings, it has less opportunity to leak and
installs faster.

• PEX flexibility also allows it to expand and contract more than other types of pipe. Increased capacity for expansion makes PEX more
burst resistant.

• Complete, easy to use repair kits are available for all PEX systems.

• Much like a circuit breaker for your plumbing system, PEX systems have a shut-off valve at each supply line. Having a shut off at each
line allows the repair person to leave the rest of the system operational while working on one line.

Components of a PEX System

There are three main components to a PEX system:

• **Manifold**— is a series of ports that connect each supply line to the main water source. Hot and cold water have separate manifolds.

• **Supply lines**— (the actual PEX pipe)are the next component. They carry water from the manifold to the supply tubes or to a stub out,
depending on the fixture. Mark the supply lines near the manifold so you know which line services each fixture in the house.

• **Fittings**— are the last component of a PEX system. The fittings are brass and have copper rings that are crimped over the pipe to secure
it to the fitting.
PEX Connections

To connect PEX you need a few special tools and connectors.

1. Special adapter fittings are available to connect PEX to steel, copper, PVC, and CPVC. Always connect the adapter fitting to the steel, copper, PVC, or CPVC pipe before connecting it to the PEX.

2. Use the cutting tool to make a smooth, even cut in the pipe.

3. Slide a crimp ring over the pipe and slide the pipe onto the fitting. Slide the pipe up to the fitting shoulder.

4. Slide the crimp ring to a position 1/8” to 1/4” from the fitting shoulder.

5. Use the crimp tool to crimp the ring.

6. Check the fittings with the Go/No-Go gauge to ensure they are installed properly. The gauge has two openings for each pipe size. One opening is marked Go and the other is marked No-Go. The Go opening should fit snugly over the crimped rings, and the No-Go opening should not fit over them at all. If the connection fails either test, cut the pipe and connect another fitting.