

PEX AND PP-RCT COMMERCIAL SOLUTIONS

Mechanical Piping System Time and Materials

Comparison Sheet

With intense competition to build structures as economically, efficiently, and sustainably as possible, being price competitive is a significant challenge for contractors. This industry reality is bringing the trend of polymer solutions to the forefront for mechanical piping systems.

Now, more professionals are looking to PEX-a and PP-RCT as a durable, lightweight, corrosion-resistant piping solution that offers higher-performing systems for their commercial projects and also helps protect the bottom line to keep their businesses profitable.

When considering which material to choose for a mechanical piping system, it's important to consider labor times as well as material costs. A recent case study examined a project's mechanical piping cost, including labor and materials.

The study compared project costs on a 420,000-square-foot commercial building for the following systems:

- PEX-a pipe in sizes 2" and smaller with PP-RCT in sizes 2½" and larger
- PP-RCT only
- Copper press in sizes 2" and smaller with welded steel in sizes 2½" and larger
- Copper press in sizes 2" and smaller with grooved steel in sizes 2½" and larger

Labor times were estimated using MCAA labor data, and installer costs were estimated at \$75 per hour. Product material costs were based on standard list price and included PEX-a Pipe Support for the PEX sections.

The results show that using PEX-a pipe in sizes 2" and smaller with PP-RCT in sizes 2½" and larger is the most cost-effective solution for the building minus the mechanical room, and PP-RCT is the most cost-effective solution for the mechanical room only.

Refer to the back page for cost-comparison details.



Building without Mechanical Room

Piping Material	Large Cost Subtotal (2½" & larger)	Small Cost Subtotal (2" & smaller)	Total Material Cost	Large Labor Hours Subtotal	Small Labor Hours Subtotal	Total Labor Hours	Total Labor Cost	Overall Cost
PEX-a with PP-RCT	\$89,576	\$171,931	\$261,507	680	2,305	2,985	\$223,875	\$485,382
PP-RCT only	\$90,481	\$79,576	\$170,057	713	5,534	6,247	\$468,525	\$638,582
Copper press with welded steel	\$97,210	\$324,427	\$421,637	1,879	2,002	3,881	\$291,075	\$712,712
Copper press with grooved steel	\$306,682	\$323,935	\$630,617	1,115	2,002	3,117	\$233,775	\$864,392

Mechanical Room Only

Piping Material	Large Cost Subtotal (2½" & larger)	Small Cost Subtotal (2" & smaller)	Total Material Cost	Large Labor Hours Subtotal	Small Labor Hours Subtotal	Total Labor Hours	Total Labor Cost	Overall Cost
PP-RCT only	\$37,245	\$5,320	\$42,565	489	23	512	\$38,400	\$80,965
Copper press with welded steel	\$32,671	\$1,820	\$34,491	1,123	9	1,132	\$84,900	\$119,391
Copper press with grooved steel	\$315,660	\$1,122	\$316,782	463	10	473	\$35,475	\$352,257

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Uponor Inc.
5925 148th Street West
Apple Valley, MN 55124
USA

T 800.321.4739
F 952.891.2008

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