

# HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## You May Qualify For Free Plumbing Upgrades

(NAPSA)—You can feel right at home knowing you're taking care of your house if you add this task to your "to do" list: thoroughly check your plumbing system.

You may be eligible for a free replacement plumbing system if you have leaky polybutylene (PB) plastic pipe installed between Jan. 1, 1978 and July 31, 1995. This free offer can apply if your PB system has leaked, is leaking now, or leaks in the future.

PB systems can be distinguished by flexible, gray plastic pipes joined by plastic or metal insert fittings held in place by small aluminum copper bands, which are a little wider than a man's wedding band. These can be found inside a home, the attic, crawl space or water heater closet often buried beneath insulation materials.

Outside a home, blue, gray or black piping at the water meter or pipe entry site may indicate the presence of a qualifying PB yard service line.

If a structure you own has polybutylene plumbing, you may want to call the Consumer Plumbing Recovery Center (CPRC) toll free at 1-800-392-7591 or visit the Web site at [www.pbpipe.com](http://www.pbpipe.com). The Web site features all information needed to file a claim, including a Claims Eligibility Form.

It takes about four months from a homeowner's first contact with the CPRC to a replumbed

house. The CPRC first evaluates the claim. Then, an inspector is sent for a site visit. If your plumbing system qualifies, you can select your own plumber or use one recommended by the CPRC.

PB pipe was installed in millions of residential properties in the U.S. beginning in the late 1970s, but it was never used for drains, waste or vent piping, yard sprinkler systems, irrigation systems, fire sprinkler systems, sewer lines, faucets or fixtures. PB pipe should also not be confused with PVC or CPVC products that are rigid and white or off-white plastic.

The CPRC was created in 1995 following the settlement of a \$950 million national class action suit against PB pipe manufacturers and raw material suppliers. The Center has spent more than \$500 million replumbing affected houses, mobile homes and multi-unit structures and yard service lines.

If you purchased your property after Sept. 12, 1999, and it has PB plumbing and you do not wish to participate in the benefits of the replacement program, you may exclude yourself from obtaining relief under this settlement. To do so, you must sign and return an exclusion request form before Dec. 31, 2002. The toll-free number and Web site have information on how to do that as well as the official Notice of Class Action and Settlement.