REALTOR CHEAT SHEET

PROVIDED TO YOU BY SAFE HOUSE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

PLUMBING	TYPICAL LIFE SPAN	YEARS USED	ISSUES
BRASS	40-70+ yrs.	1900-1935	Corrosion causes leaks, Expensive
COPPER	50+ yrs.	1935 - Present	Copper pipes also encounter problems from water acidity, so they are not good to install for plumbing systems that draw water from a well.
GALVANIZED STEEL	20-50 yrs.	1900 - 1950's	Dezincification, Galvanized steel pipes may contain lead, which corrodes quickly and reduces the lifespan of the piping.
CAST IRON	75-100 yrs.	1900 - 1980's	Cast iron pipe is extremely strong and durable, but is quite brittle and if accidentally knocked will easily break.
PVC (Polyvinyl Cloride)	50-80 yrs.	Late 1960's	Improper installation practices
POLYBUTYLENE PIPING	25-30 yrs.	1970 - 1990's	Prone to breakage
LEAD	100 yrs.	1900's - 1940	Have the water tested. If results show the lead content at 15 parts per billion (15 ppb) or more, replacement needed
CPVC	50-80 yrs.	1985 - Present	Improper installation practices
ABS	50-80 yrs.	1985 - Present	Building codes in some areas no longer allow the use of ABS. Buyers should be particularly alert for leaks in ABS black plastic drain, waste or vent piping.
PEX	40-50 yrs.	1990 - Present	The pipe can fail when exposed to chlorine within the water, or over exposure to sunlight before installation. The leading cause of failure is caused by dezincification.