

AT IT AGAIN: DIPRA REPEATEDLY PROMOTES FLAWED STUDY

A University of Michigan study, paid for by the ductile iron pipe industry, claiming that ductile iron pipe is superior to PVC pipe has been repeatedly shown to rely on false quotations and misinformation. Their study cites research from Utah State University that actually finds PVC pipe to be more reliable with a longer lifespan than ductile iron pipe. But history shows the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association continues to promote this study despite being called out again and again.

2012 April



Utah State University Researcher Dr. Steven Folkman releases study showing **PVC pipes have the lowest failure rate of all pipe materials in North America. A May 2014 study, also by Dr. Folkman, found that PVC pipe has a lifespan of over 100 years.**

Study: "Water Main Break Rates In the USA and Canada: A Comprehensive Study."
Study: "PVC Pipe Longevity Report."

2016 July 22



In a letter to authors of the Michigan study, Dr. Folkman points out their false claims.

"[Your study] references a paper I did in 2012 on 'Water Main Break Rates in the USA and Canada' and claim[s] that I stated that the expected life of PVC pipe is 41-60 years. There is no such statement in that paper."

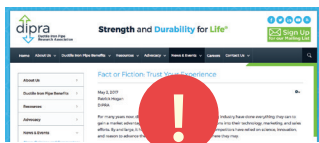
2016 October 20

In another letter, Dr. Folkman points out the errors of the Michigan study cited in Runge's piece and responds to other misleading claims about Folkman's original article.

"As stated in my publication, these early failures [of PVC pipe] are often caused by improper installation. In every investigation I have been involved with dealing with early failures of PVC pipe, improper installation was the cause in every situation.

[...] "Most importantly, Mr. Runge fails to mention that the same article showed that failure rates of DI pipe are almost twice as high as PVC pipe. Figure 20 of my paper shows that PVC break rates decrease over time. There is evidence that DI pipe break rates increase over time."

2017 May 2



In a new post on their website, "Fact or Fiction: Trust Your Experience," DIPRA continues to cite the flawed University of Michigan Study and calls into question the proven fact that PVC pipes enjoy a longer lifespan than ductile iron.

July 14

2016

University of Michigan releases study attributing claims to Dr. Folkman's Utah State study that were NEVER MADE, that PVC pipe's lifespan was limited to between 41 and 60 years.



Study: "A Framework to Evaluate the Life Cycle Costs and Environmental Impacts of Water Pipelines"

October 14

2016

Jon R. Runge, president of the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association (DIPRA), publishes a piece in the [Washington Examiner](#) touting the merits of Ductile Iron Pipe with quotes from the flawed University of Michigan study. He also directly misquotes Dr. Folkman's research.



"In contrast, a study by Utah State University's Dr. Steven Folkman found that of the PVC pipe failures surveyed, 46.4 percent of the reported breaks occurred in PVC pipe that had been in service for 21-40 years. Moreover, 51.5% of the reported breaks occurred in PVC pipe that had been in service for 20 years or less."

November 2

2016

Richard Doyle, President & CEO of the Vinyl Institute, publishes an article in the [Washington Examiner](#) to bring DIPRA's misleading statements to light and correct the record.



"But that doesn't give DIPRA the right to fabricate its own set of facts about PVC pipe, which it uses to mislead the public. DIPRA has stooped so low, in fact, that its president, Jon Runge, has been promoting a study that he knows contains false information to advance his group's anti-PVC campaign. The report, which DIPRA commissioned, falsely quotes the findings of Dr. Stephen Folkman, a preeminent expert on pipe durability. And when Dr. Folkman confronted the study's authors about it, they ignored him. Dr. Folkman even wrote a letter to Mr. Runge himself — and it, too, was ignored."