

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB207

## Use of RAUPEX® Pipe at Water Heater Connections



**Product:** RAUPEX® Pipe

**Date:** 15 October 2020 (supersedes 10 May 2018)

In accordance *Uniform Plumbing Code, Section 604.13*:  
“PEX tubing shall not be installed within the first eighteen (18) inches (457 mm) of piping connected to a water heater.” A minimum of 18 in (45 cm) of metallic transition piping must be used for both of the direct connections to water heater connections. Corrugated metal water heater connector pipes of copper or stainless steel are the typical materials for this application (see Fig.1)

Within the Uniform Plumbing Code, this applies to all PEX fitting systems and all types of water heaters (electric, fossil fuel, and indirect-fired) including storage tank type and tankless type (also known as demand or instantaneous) water heaters.

In some local jurisdictions, direct connection of PEX pipe to a water heater is allowed. In these cases, RAUPEX pipe may be directly connected as per the following:

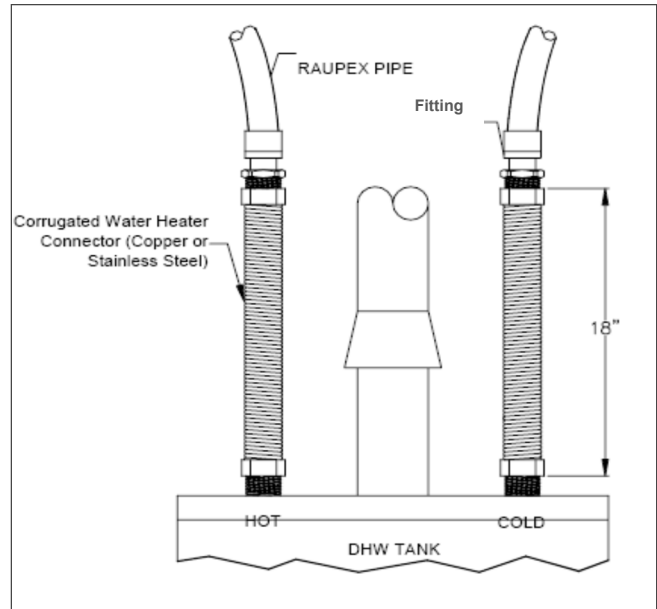


Fig.1: DHW water tank with 18" of metallic transition piping

### Electric, storage type water heaters:

- Direct connection allowed to electric water heaters, which are intended for domestic applications, unless prohibited by the specific water heater manufacturer.

### Gas, tankless water heaters:

- Direct connection allowed to tankless water heaters, which are intended for domestic applications, unless prohibited by the specific water heater manufacturer.
- Connection must be a minimum 6" distance from flue, specific distance based on specific water heater manufacturer's recommendation.
- If the minimum distance from flue cannot be accomplished, metallic transition piping is required.

### Gas, storage type water heaters:

- Direct connection allowed to gas water heaters, which are intended for domestic applications, unless prohibited by the specific water heater manufacturer.
- Connection must be minimum from 6" from flue and 6" from blower box.
- If the minimum distance from flue and blower box cannot be accomplished, metallic transition piping is required.

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