

PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL
INTERPRETATION MANUAL



CODE: IRC 2003 IRC

DATE:

CODE REF: Section P3103

3/5/2004

SUBJECT: Painting of vent Stacks above the roof

Question: Are PVC vent stacks that extend above the roof required to be protected from sunlight (UV)?
Answer: NO
Conclusion: After extensive investigation including codes, manufacturer's installations and other standards available provides the following conclusion. The 1991 UPC is no longer our plumbing code for residential construction and therefore this provision will not apply considering our adopted code for residential is the 2000 IRC. Therefore, this should not be an issue for plumbing inspection and we should not address this issue any longer. This interpretation is limited to protection or painting of PVC exposed to sunlight and applies to the vent stack through the roof or sidewall. All other applications of PVC exposed to sunlight shall be protected from sunlight.

In a letter received from Reese W. Sumrall, Jr. with Charlotte Pipe Foundry Company, he states the following:

“There are numerous installation of PVC piping in this country that provide adequate field experience in this area. We have exposed piping systems at our plant in Monroe that is operating for more than 25 years.

Exposed PVC will turn tan on the topside, sometimes in less than 1 year for locations with high UV levels. This does not reduce the stiffness or working pressure of the pipe, although some impact may be loss. Pipe subject to mechanical abuse should be protected.

Vent stack extending through the roof are not subject to mechanical abuse and therefore it should not be an issue regarding the requirement for painting or protection.

Note: This interpretation is limited to vent terminals above the roof or side wall

SIGNATURE: *Lonnie Erwin,*
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