

Pipe Sample Collection Kit

Save the pipe your plumber removes.
You may need it later.

When a plumber takes out a section of pipe during a repair, hold on to it. If your plumber keeps making the same repair, a forensics expert can use those pieces to help investigate what's wrong, and whether a problem is isolated or systemic.

This kit shows you how to bag, tag, store, and log pipe samples. It only takes a few minutes.

How to Save a Pipe Sample

1. BEFORE IT COMES OUT

- ☐ Take a photo of the pipe in the wall before anyone cuts it
- ☐ Ask the plumber to leave good pipe on both sides of the section they cut out
- ☐ Keep the fittings and couplings if the plumber removes them, and keep anything with a brand name or numbers stamped on it

2. BAG IT

- ☐ Don't scrub, wire-brush, or use chemical cleaners on the sample
- ☐ Photograph the interior and exterior, including the cut ends
- ☐ Drain any standing water, wait for the sample to fully dry, then bag or cap both ends so loose debris stays with the piece
- ☐ Put small pieces, especially those that go together, in a sealed plastic bag

3. TAG IT

- ☐ Fill out a tag from page 3 of this kit
- ☐ Place the tag in the bag, or tape it onto large unbagged samples
- ☐ Take one more photo with the tag on the pipe or in the bag

4. KEEP IT

- ☐ Store the sample indoors and off the floor (One labeled bin in a maintenance room can hold years of samples)

5. LOG IT

- ☐ Log the full incident in your SageWater® Leak Log or other leak incident tracker—e.g., location, system, pipe material, who did the work, what the repair and the damage cost, and anything else your tracker asks for
- ☐ Note where you saved the photos so they're easy to find later



What You Need

- ☐ A bin
- ☐ Zip-close bags
- ☐ A marker
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Tags from page 3 of this kit



Pro Tip

Tell your plumber before the job starts that you want the piping pieces they remove. Once the crew packs up, those pieces are gone for good.

What Saved Pipe Samples Can Tell You

When plumbing problems keep happening—across the community or in a certain area—the samples you’ve saved can help you answer questions like:

- Whether a problem is isolated or systemic
- Whether piping may have reached the end of its useful life
- Whether there’s a construction defect, including one that may fall under a warranty

Getting Answers

Reach out to a plumbing and mechanical infrastructure expert like SageWater. Here’s how it works:

- **Tell them what you’ve got.** Describe the incidents and samples you’ve collected that may be related to the problem you’re trying to solve. Details like where each sample came from, and when, often narrows the problem area before any testing starts.
- **Send them your samples.** The expert will review the data and samples you’ve collected to see whether they can solve the problem. If they can’t, they’ll tell you what else to examine or sample before any testing begins.
- **Get an analysis.** The expert may use lab-based scientific analysis and/or hands-on inspection at your property to provide a fact-based analysis. With a SageWater Pipe TEST™ forensic analysis, you get even more, including a report on the condition of your piping, recommendations on what to do, and a cost estimate when system replacement is warranted.



Pro Tip

If the same fitting fails in multiple units, that’s usually not a coincidence.

Why Bother?

- **Costs almost nothing.** A bin, some bags, and a few minutes.
- **Once the evidence is gone, it’s gone.** You can’t get the pipe pieces back after they go in the trash.
- **Helps you evaluate your system.** Patterns show up across samples, not in one incident.
- **Informs budgeting and capital planning.** Put data in your decision makers’ hands.

Have questions about what your pipes are telling you?

Let’s talk through your options—*For the Good of Your Building®*

Lic. Nos.:



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Pipe Sample Tag

Date pulled _____

Property name _____

Building/Stack/Unit/Floor _____

Pulled by _____

Pipe material and size, if known _____

System:

- ☐ Domestic Water—Hot
- ☐ Domestic Water—Cold
- ☐ DWV
- ☐ Heat & A/C
- ☐ Fire Sprinkler

Photos taken:

- ☐ In the wall, before cutting
- ☐ Showing cut ends/interior
- ☐ With this tag on it

Recorded in leak tracker:

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Why it was removed:

- ☐ Active leak
- ☐ Pinhole
- ☐ Planned replacement
- ☐ Other _____

Do not clean this pipe. Keep this tag with it.

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