



Repipe Planning Checklist

For a house in the Charlotte area: what to note about the pipe and the house before anyone visits, the permit and pressure questions to ask, and a side-by-side check of what each written estimate names. Look only: nothing here asks you to open, cut or test any pipe.

1. The pipe you can see

- ☐ At the water heater: gray plastic, white or cream plastic, colored plastic, copper or gray steel
Gray plastic is often polybutylene; rusty threaded steel is galvanized.
- ☐ At the main shutoff and where the line enters the house
- ☐ Under sinks and in the crawl space, if you can see it from the access
- ☐ Green or white crust on copper, rust at threaded joints, water stains under fittings
- ☐ Repairs already made: _____ how many, and where
A pattern of pinholes on one run points to the pipe, not the fitting.

2. The house

- ☐ Year built _____ and any later additions
- ☐ Foundation: crawl space, slab, basement or a mix
- ☐ Stories _____ · bathrooms _____ · kitchens _____
- ☐ Other fixtures: laundry, hose bibs, ice maker, outdoor kitchen, water treatment
- ☐ Finished ceilings between floors; tile walls behind the fixtures
- ☐ Condo, townhome or HOA rules on work hours and shared walls

3. Water and pressure

- ☐ Weak flow at one fixture, one floor, or the whole house
Weak flow everywhere can be the street side or a valve, not only the pipe.
- ☐ Brown or rusty water on first use in the morning
- ☐ Banging pipes, a dripping relief valve, or toilets that run after flushing
Signs of high pressure. Where pressure is above 80 psi, a pressure-reducing valve is required on new or remodeled plumbing.
- ☐ Pressure-reducing valve present: yes / no / not sure
- ☐ Water from the city or a private well

4. Permit and paperwork

- ☐ Which office issues the plumbing permit for the address
Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement for Charlotte and the six towns; Gaston, Cabarrus, Fort Mill, Rock Hill and Lancaster County each run their own.
- ☐ Who pulls the permit, and the license number for the work
Paid plumbing work in North Carolina needs a state plumbing license; South Carolina has its own license rules.
- ☐ An inspection before walls are closed, and a final
- ☐ Insurer or buyer letters that name the pipe (polybutylene, galvanized)
- ☐ A home inspection report section to share with the estimate

5. What each written estimate should name one column per estimate

Line	Estimate A	Estimate B	Estimate C
New pipe material PEX (and which type) or copper (and which type)			
Layout Manifold with home runs, or trunk and branch			
Every fixture reconnected Sinks, tubs, showers, toilets, laundry, hose bibs, ice maker			
Water heater connections			
Main shutoff and fixture stops New, or reused			
Pressure-reducing valve Tested, replaced or added			
Water service line from the meter Included, separate, or not included			
Insulation and supports Pipe in a crawl space, attic or outside wall			
Wall and ceiling openings How many, and where			
Patching Drywall only, or texture and paint too			
Permit and inspections Who pulls it, and whether the fee is included			
Pressure test before walls close			
Old pipe Removed where reachable, or abandoned in place			
Days with the water off			
Exclusions and payment terms			
Total			

6. Worth a second look

- A price with no fixture count or layout named.
- No permit mentioned for a whole house repipe.
- Patching left out without saying so.
- Copper priced without naming the type.
- A slab leak repaired again on a line that has leaked before.
- Pressure above 80 psi with no valve on the scope.

Notes