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MEETING FORMAT

6:00 – 6:30	Social
6:30 – 6:45	Announcements & Table Tops
6:45	Dinner Served
7:00 – 8:00	Presentation

DATE:	March 26, 2025
TIME:	6:00pm to 8:00pm
PLACE:	Olive Grove Restaurant
TOPIC:	Heat Pump Water Heaters
SPEAKER:	Bay Associates

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- As a paid advertiser, you will have your advertisement in the newsletter for one full year (9 editions) and company logo displayed on the Chapter website.
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- All ads must be paid in full prior to the advertisement being included in the newsletter.
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- Please contact Nikita Patel or Chuck Swope
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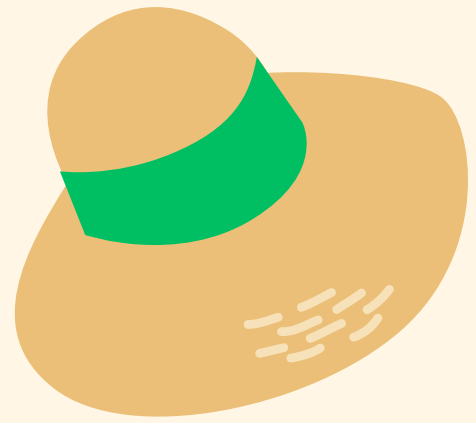
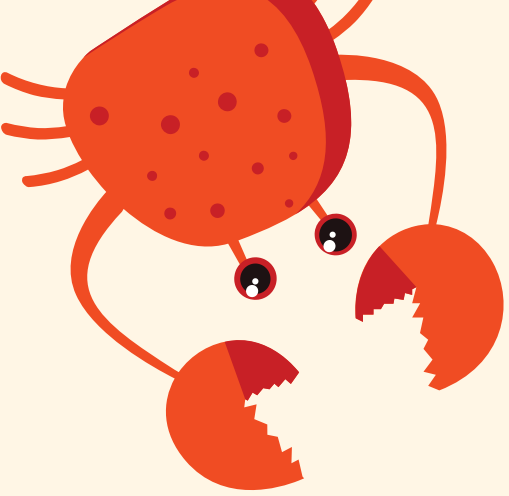
Chuck Swope, PE, CPD, LEED AP BD+C
Chapter President

It's hard to believe that the season is almost over! We're coming up on the March meeting and the weather is starting to warm up. We still have an action packed slate coming up starting with this month. What's also hard to believe is that our virtual meetings were almost 4 years ago, 5 depending on which ones we're talking about. I'm happy to revisit the Heat Pump Water Heating topic that we covered in the "before times" as it's more relevant now than ever.

What's coming up next? I'm glad you asked! (never you mind that I forced the question) We still have our celebrated Annual Golf Outing and Cookout coming up on April 26th, as you may have heard. There we'll enjoy 18 holes of well-manicured landscape and if you're playing anywhere near me, a good laugh. After we all return to the clubhouse, we have a great cookout planned with hamburgers, hot dogs and all the fixings. As always, we'll have our coveted awards for closest to the pin, putting challenges and more! I've ordered a full day of sunshine, warm temperatures, and a little false advertising ;)

As you are aware, this is our 50th Anniversary and we're pulling out all the stops! We finally have selected our venue, and we wanted something that reflects our chapter and our state. Our little shindig will be held at Conrad's Ruth Villa and we're having a good ol' fashioned Crab Feast, as promised. Nothing says Baltimore like picking crabs on the water's edge. There's a beach, a pavilion and plenty of ways to enjoy each other's company as we put a cap on this historic season. Might even be a raffle or two. More details to come, so watch your inboxes.

P.S. If you're reading this before March 19th, know of a young chapter member (or are thinking about becoming one), I hear that this quarter's AYP presentation is a pretty good one. Check your inboxes for a reminder on that one as well, especially if you want to know about the basics of Natural Gas Design.



Save the Date

CRAB FEAST!



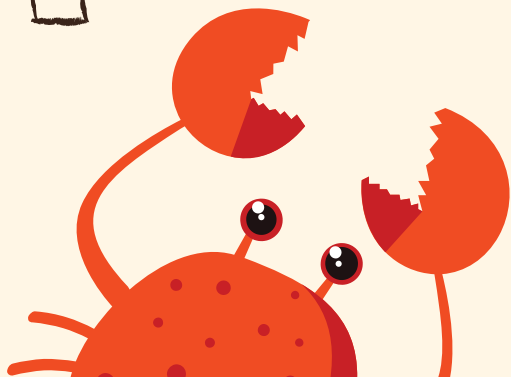
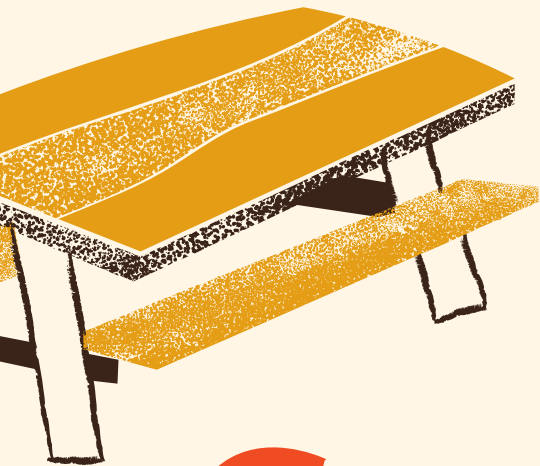
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Julian Chiveral, PE LEED AP BD+C
Vice President- Technical

We made our return to the Olive Grove in February and it was great catching up with everyone who made it out to the meeting! Thank you to everyone in attendance and a special thanks to Bryan Berkley for his presentation on Synthetic Fluorine-Free Foam (SFFF) fire suppression systems. If you've got any questions for Bryan, he can be reached via email at BBerkley@supplynet.com.

In March, we'll be back at the Olive Grove on the 26th to explore another hot topic: heat pump water heating! We last discussed HPWH technology in 2021, but even if you remember the last presentation, this will be one you won't want to miss – in addition to covering the basics of sizing and selecting heat pump water heaters, we'll focus on lessons learned and a few specific applications.

Leading the session will be Andrew Macaluso, Senior Product Manager for System Solutions at Watts Water Technologies' Applied Solutions division. Andrew has led the introduction of many cutting-edge technologies, including the newest commercial heat pump water heating technologies. He is an ardent advocate for highly efficient, environmentally friendly technologies and is passionate about applying those technologies where they can have the greatest impact. Andrew holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University, is currently pursuing an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and is an active ASHRAE and ASPE member.

I'll catch you folks at the OG!
Julian, VP-T

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SHADOWING A BOARD POSITION?

Each of these board positions is essential to our Baltimore ASPE Chapter. If you are interested in shadowing one of these positions, please reach out to Chuck Swope.



Vice President, Technical

- Organizes technical programs and educational sessions
- Recruits speakers and maintains a speaker database
- Issues CEUs for technical meetings



Vice President, Legislative

- Monitors and engages with plumbing codes and ordinances
- Liaises with local regulatory organizations
- Organizes legislative education events



Vice President, Membership

- Recruits and retains chapter members
- Plans social events and networking opportunities
- Maintains membership records and reports



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- Manages chapter finances and budget
- Collects and disburses funds
- Submits financial reports to Society office

Administrative Secretary

- Maintains chapter records and files reports
- Assists with meeting documentation
- Ensures proper archival of chapter activities

Newsletter Editor

- Publishes the monthly chapter newsletter
- Coordinates content from chapter officers
- Generates revenue through advertisements

Corresponding Secretary

- Sends meeting and internal chapter communications
- Works with Vice President, Membership to update mailing lists
- Coordinates with newsletter and website manager

Website Manager

- Maintains and updates the chapter website
- Posts newsletters, event details, and announcements
- Ensures all links and resources are current

Affiliate Liaison

- Acts as a bridge between affiliates and the board
- Promotes chapter events and involvement
- Helps recruit speakers and industry professionals

Unlocking Cost Savings: Improving Water Quality Enhances DHW System Efficiency and Reliability

February 3, 2025¹ Armin Madani

Viewing water quality in domestic hot water systems beyond pathogen mitigation can pay dividends in the short and long term.

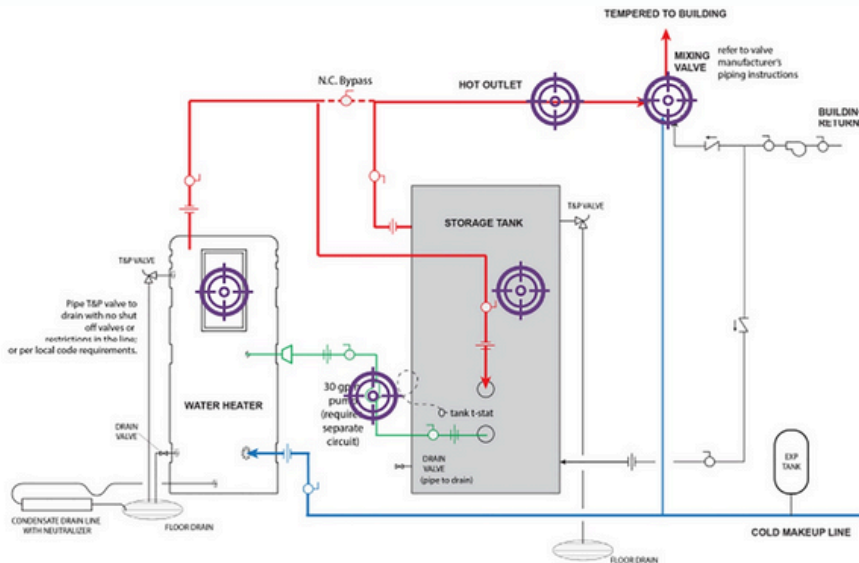
The primary concern for poor water quality centers on building occupant health and how to mitigate Legionella and other waterborne pathogens. Yet, plumbing engineers should also maintain good water quality for operational cost savings and improved equipment lifespan.

Poor water quality is commonly caused by minerals, sediments, chemicals and microorganisms, and it can lead to scale formation and corrosion. This reduces the efficiency and mechanical reliability of domestic hot water (DHW) systems and increases the risk of pathogen growth. This can result in higher energy costs, more frequent replacements and increased maintenance and labor expenses.

The financial impact of scale and corrosion can be significant. For instance, thermal efficiency losses in a 100 gallons/minute hot water application can lead to noticeably higher energy costs in a commercial building, potentially amounting to tens of thousands of dollars annually, in some cases. To address this, DHW systems should include adequate anti-scale and corrosion measures coupled with regular monitoring.

Scale reduces DHW system efficiency

One byproduct of poor water quality is scaling. Scale is the accumulation of mineral deposits on surfaces. It can be caused by multiple factors, including scale forming water chemistry, high temperature and pressure changes, which are common in DHW systems. All kinds of scale like calcium carbonate or phosphate can lower DHW systems efficiency. Figure 1 indicates potential DHW system failure points due to scaling.



Scale issues are prominent in many regions throughout the United States because much of the country has hard water. Mineral scale is more likely to form in areas of high heat flux, low flow and high pressure drop. It can occur when there are elevated levels of pH, alkalinity, hardness and phosphate in the water.

Scale is especially prevalent in DHW systems because water heating results in over-saturation of calcium carbonate, which means calcium carbonate is less soluble in hot water. Therefore, as water is heated, calcium carbonate may crystallize and attach to surfaces. Scale is also more likely to form in water that is considered basic, i.e., it has high pH levels.

The ability of the heat exchanger to transfer heat to domestic water is restricted by scale, lowering efficiency. Excessive scale can cause damage to the heat exchanger as well, causing "hot spots" that indicate unequal heat exchange distribution across a metal surface. This equipment can warp, causing failures.

Calcium and magnesium ions must be removed or transformed to address scaling issues in DHW systems caused by hard water. Several proactive methods can be implemented to achieve this goal, including:

- Magnetic and electromagnetic scale reducers. This process transforms the structure of hardness molecules by passing water containing hardness ions through a magnetic field.
- Water softening: This process utilizes ion exchange resin to exchange hardness ions like calcium and magnesium with sodium ion.
- Media-assisted crystallization (MAC). A technology attracting hardness minerals, such as calcium and magnesium, MAC converts those minerals into harmless, crystalized particles that will not stick to pipe and components in water heating systems. Instead, the microscopic crystals break away as they grow, float freely through water and move harmlessly through piping and the water heating system.

A MAC approach is more sustainable than water softeners and additives that use salt and harsh chemicals, produce wastewater or require electricity. The latter options remove important nutrients from hard water and can be more expensive.

Corrosion: A threat to system longevity

While scale compromises system efficiency, corrosion poses an equally significant threat to the longevity of DHW systems. Corrosion occurs when metallic components, such as pipe, tanks and fittings, react chemically with water, oxygen or other substances. Over time, this chemical degradation weakens the system's structural integrity, leading to leaks, failures and increased maintenance costs.

Two of the primary culprits are the presence of chloride ions and oxidizing chemicals like chlorine or chloramines. Chloride gets into domestic water for different reasons, including but not limited to, the salt used on icy roads and salty water intrusion into underground water resources. Often introduced through the use of chlorine and chloramine, chemical disinfectants get added to water to control microbial growth. Chlorides can lead to significant corrosion issues that can be particularly damaging and difficult to detect.

Chemical disinfectants create a trade-off between pathogen mitigation and protecting system longevity. One alternative is ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection. Unlike chemical methods, UV light is a physical process that inactivates microorganisms without damaging the plumbing system. Moreover, by preventing the formation of biofilms and mitigating microbial risks, UV systems can enhance the reliability and lifespan of DHW systems.

While microbiologically influenced corrosion is also a concern, the role of chlorides and chlorination in corrosion should not be underestimated. Proper material selection, water treatment and alternative disinfection methods like UV light can be essential strategies to mitigate corrosion and ensure the longevity of DHW systems.

Effective measures to maintain water quality

Protecting DHW systems from the adverse effects of poor water quality, such as scale and corrosion, requires a proactive approach. The first step is a comprehensive water analysis.

Regular water analyses help implement and maintain appropriate water treatment practices to ensure system efficiency, reduce maintenance costs, and ensure compliance with health and safety regulations.

Here is a breakdown of the essential metrics to analyze for a comprehensive understanding of water quality on a given premise:

- pH: Determines the acidity or alkalinity of the water;
- TDS: Measures the total dissolved inorganic material in the water, which impacts the rate of chemical reactions;
- Total hardness: Indicates the concentration of calcium and magnesium ions;
- Total alkalinity: Represents the buffering capacity of the water, which resists pH changes;
- Sulfates and chlorides: Important for assessing corrosion potential;
- Free chlorine: Indicates the presence of residual disinfectants;
- Total suspended solids: Measures the level of suspended particles.

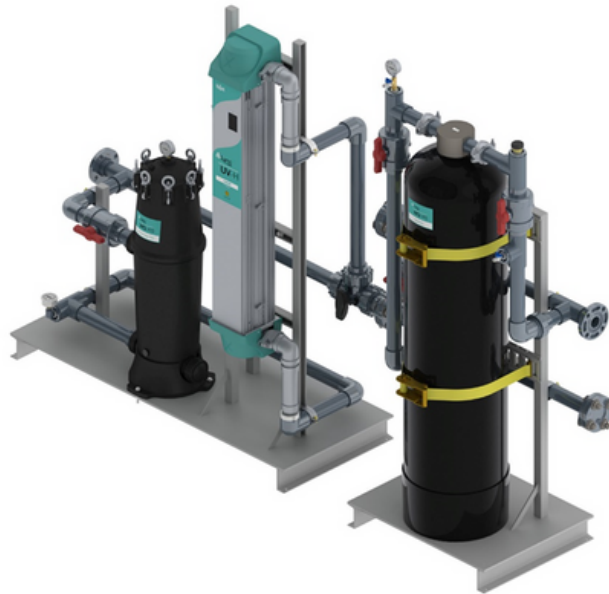
In situations where microbial contamination is suspected as a contributing factor, testing for microbial contaminants may be a critical next step.

Proactive and reactive water treatment strategies

When evaluating the impact of water quality on systems and materials, a comprehensive analysis of water chemistry, plumbing system materials, and operating conditions is essential. Every site and application presents a unique case requiring careful evaluation.

For example, an application with high chloride levels, low water alkalinity (water chemistry component), the use of 304 stainless steel (material component) and a high-temperature environment (operating parameter component) creates a combination that amplifies corrosion risks. A system-level approach in such cases would recommend reverse osmosis (RO) treatment to reduce chloride levels, along with appropriate post-RO treatment to improve water alkalinity.

While this approach is reactive, proactive strategies can address potential water quality issues before they arise. For instance, a multitreatment system, like the one shown in Figure 2, integrates UV disinfection, sediment filtration and anti-scale technologies (e.g., MAC) to mitigate bacterial risks, solids accumulation and scale formation.



These systems not only offer significant environmental, sustainability and operational savings — avoiding backwashing, salt use and chemical treatments — but also provide proactive plumbing system protection, enhanced water heating efficiency and reduced maintenance costs.

Taking a broader view of water quality in DHW systems — beyond pathogen mitigation — can yield short- and long-term benefits. Often seen as an added expense, investing in water quality measures can, in fact, result in significant savings.

Plumbing engineers who adopt treatment and conditioning measures tailored to specific site conditions can help building owners and facility managers save on annual operating costs, reduce maintenance and replacement needs and improve equipment lifespan.

Armin Madani, a civil and environmental engineer, is a Certified Water Treatment Designer (Water Quality Association) and certified by the American Society of Sanitary Engineering in Legionella safety. He has managed a portfolio of commercial water quality systems at Lync by Watts for the past four years.

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Nicole Murphy
VP Membership

Hello everyone! I hope you've been enjoying the recent taste of spring!
We are pleased to announce the newest addition to the Baltimore Chapter:

- Tyron Moore

With 142 members on our roster, the Baltimore Chapter continues to grow and thrive. ASPE membership provides a valuable platform for professional development, networking, and access to industry resources—including our informative and engaging monthly meetings.

If you have not yet registered, now is an excellent time to explore the many benefits of membership. We also encourage current members to invite colleagues and peers to attend our events and learn more about what ASPE has to offer. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant and engaged professional community.

For more membership information and to stay updated on upcoming events, please visit:

👉 <https://aspe.org/join>

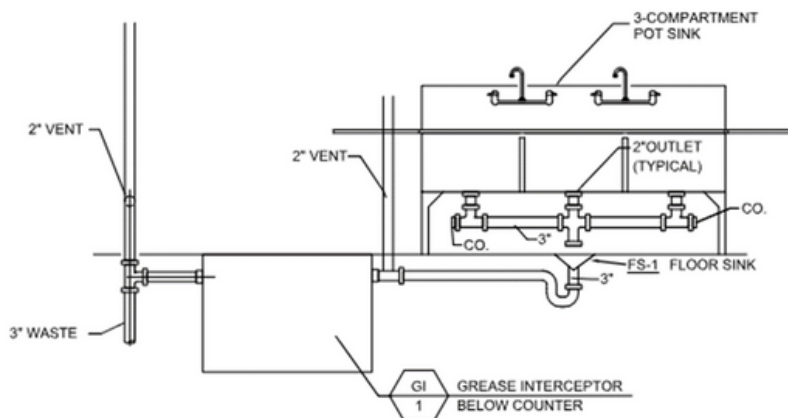
We look forward to seeing you at our next chapter meeting on March 26th at the Olive Grove.

Best regards,
Nicole Murphy, Harry Eklof & Associates
nmurphy@harryeklof.com • 443-926-6821
VP Membership



David Bailey
Plumbing Plans Reviewer's Corner

Last month's review involves grease abatement for a kitchen area. A waiver came into the office to have the mop basin deleted from the grease abatement system. This prompted me to glance at the approved drawings. A Schier GB-3 grease trap was specified for receiving grease waste for a 3" drain mop basin and a three-compartment sink. A copy of a detail of the three-compartment sink detail is provided below. What are the concerns with this proposed grease abatement system?

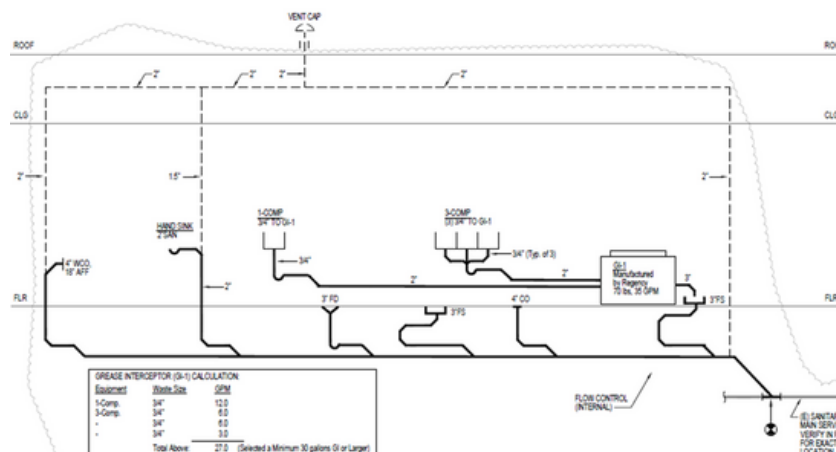


3 COMPARTMENT INDIRECT SINK AND BELOW GREASE INTERCEPTOR DETAIL

The concerns of last month's review are as follows:

- At least one mop basin nearest to or within the kitchen area shall require grease abatement.
- The manifolding the three IW together for the 3-compartment sink is not allowed.
- A cleanout is required on the inlet side of the FBGI, and a single/double two-way CO on the outlet side of the FBGI.
- Lastly, I would require that the receptor drain X.S. area to be at least one pipe size larger than the square root of the sum of the IW X.S. areas.

This month review involves a project that whereby a meeting with the designer and owner was arranged so that this project may be reviewed without serious problems on the third and final "free" review. Following the meeting, I received a GW/Sanitary riser diagram (see below). What are the concerns with this proposed grease abatement system?



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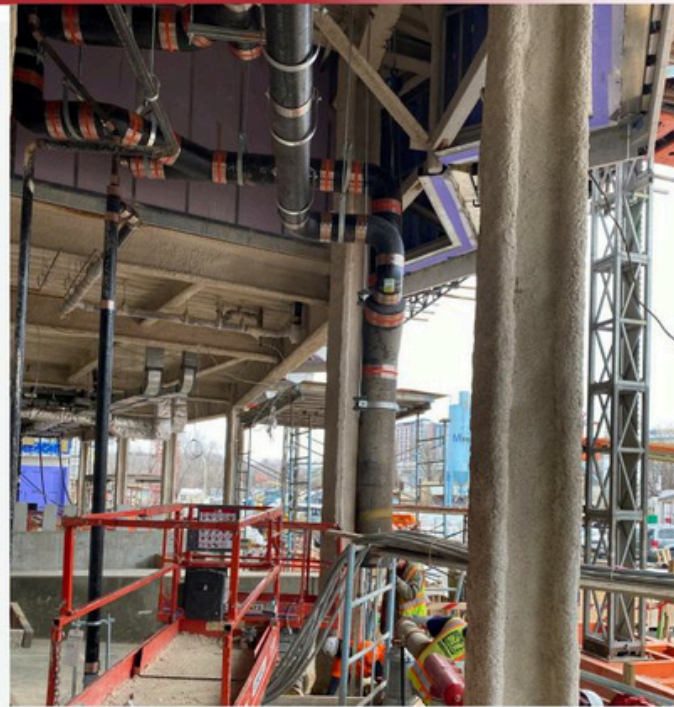
05

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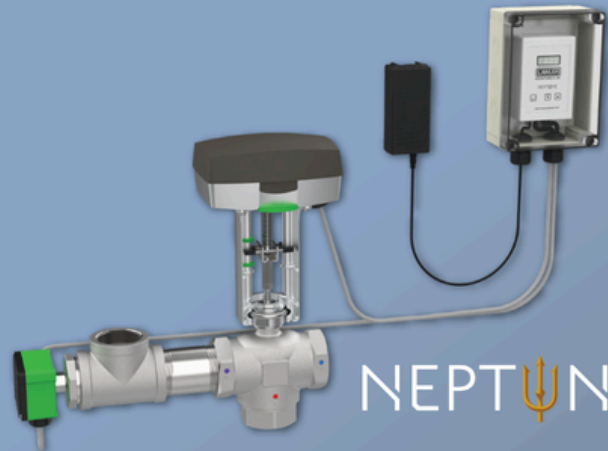
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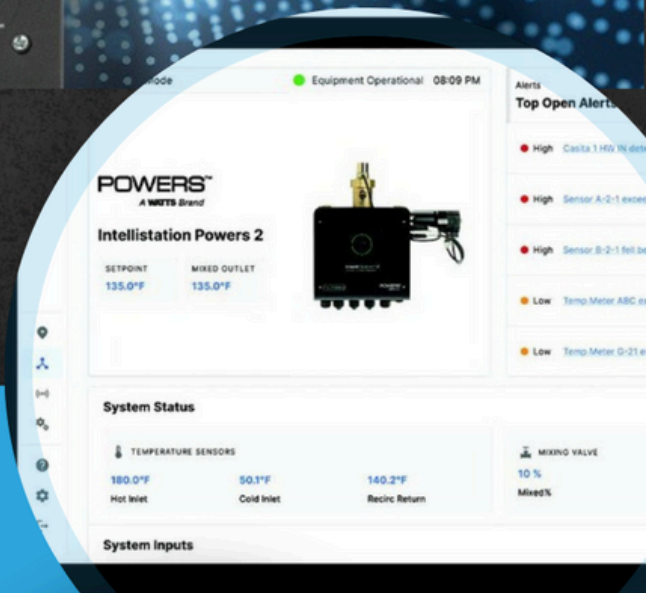


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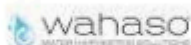


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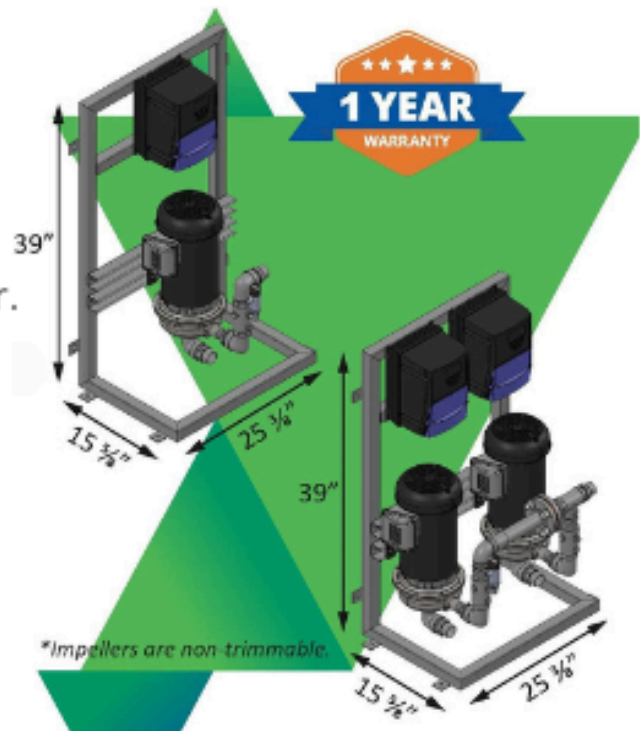
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A thinner shield is more forgiving, flexible, and malleable. It bends with the joint allowing the seal to remain strong. A thick shield is rigid and does not form itself over the joint.

STEPPED JOINTS

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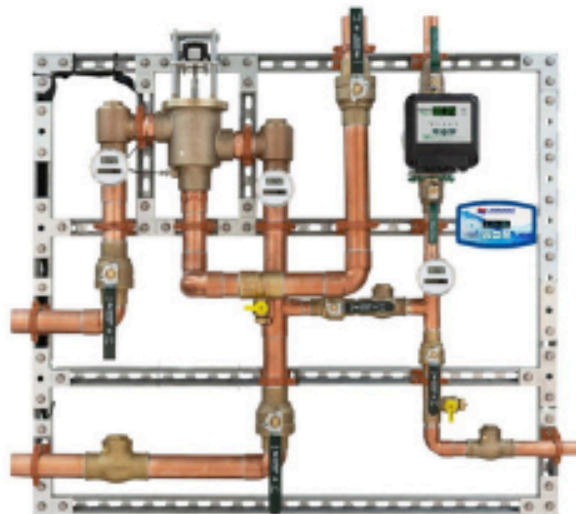
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verticals

- battery
- chemical
- data centers
- education
- food and beverage
- hospitality
- oil & gas
- pharmaceutical
- power generation
- mixed-use
- water treatment

materials

- brass
- bronze
- carbon steel
- copper / steel
- ductile iron
- lead-free brass
- stainless steel

connections

- flange
- groove
- press
- push
- solder
- threaded
- welded



Schedule of Events

SEPT 25	Tankless Water Heaters	Olive Grove, Linthicum
OCT 16	Elevator Codes and Standards	Little Havana, Locust Point
NOV 20	RO/DI Water Systems	Valley Inn, Timonium
DEC 18	Pros & Cons of Plastic Pipe	Valley Inn, Timonium
JAN 23	Industry Night with UA486	UA Local 486 Training Ctr Rosedale
FEB 26	Fire Suppression Specialties	Olive Grove, Linthicum
MAR 26	Heat Pump Water Heaters	Olive Grove, Linthicum
APR 23	Everything We Do Wrong	Little Havana, Locust Point
APR 25	Annual Golf Tournament	Timbers at Troy
MAY 21	Backflow Prevention	Little Havana, Locust Point
TBD	Annual Summer Party	Details to Follow

MONTHLY SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Tabletop Presentations: \$100 to provide a tabletop presentation of equipment or material relative to the plumbing profession. The tabletops will be set up from the beginning to the end of the monthly meeting and provides the opportunity to provide a brief (under 5 minutes) presentation. We ask that the affiliate register for tabletop presentations in non-consecutive months to allow other presenters the opportunity to support the chapter.

Social Sponsorship: \$250 to provide a running slideshow presented on screen of logos, linecards, and a 8.5x11" sign at the bar. This slideshow will be provided during the social period. There will also be a special mention by the master of ceremonies during the opening and closing remarks. Slideshow must be submitted prior to the meeting for approval. PowerPoint, .jpg, or .png formats are preferred.

Please make checks payable to the Baltimore Chapter of ASPE. Contact Kathy Dwyer or Chuck Swope if interested