

## From FastEST, Inc.

In an effort to better serve our customers, we are conducting a survey. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey with this bulletin and return it by fax to our office. We will compile the results of the survey and report them in one of our upcoming bulletins.

Two years ago we conducted a survey, which provided a lot of useful information for us. In turn, we were able to develop and implement new features, add new databases, and provide better support for the FastPIPE product.

Finding out that many of our customers worked in the residential plumbing market even helped with our decision to add a residential version of FastPIPE.

We especially appreciated the testimonials and feedback from our customers, which helped us with our marketing and advertising. They also have helped us in establishing a direction for the future.

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter, call me toll-free at 800-828-7108, or send an e-mail to [mark.oxler@fastest-inc.com](mailto:mark.oxler@fastest-inc.com).

Thank you,



Mark Oxler  
President

## Changing Piping Materials

Contractors are often required to look at projects using different piping materials. Sometimes an owner or engineer may want to look at the difference in cost between two types of piping systems to get a job within a budget; or perhaps the contractor would like to offer savings to the owner to pipe a job using different materials than specified. Either way, this can easily be accomplished in FastPIPE in several ways.

Sometimes the method you choose can depend on whether the costs of both piping methods are required for comparison? The first step to changing pipe systems is to assess this situation. Suppose you have already taken off a job using no hub cast iron soil pipe above grade and an addendum comes out changing the pipe spec to PVC. If you are fairly certain they will not be changing back, you can follow the instructions in Method No. 1. Suppose in another instance you want to present the owner with the cost difference to use PVC in lieu of cast iron, but know that he may reject your proposal. In this case, you should use Method No. 2.

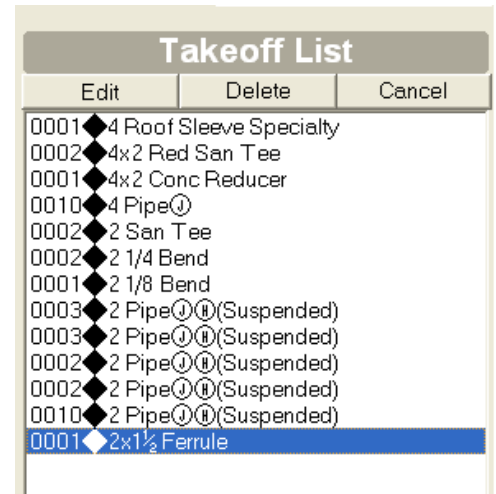
### Method No.1

If you don't need to save the estimate as it currently is, but need to change materials, the easiest way is to simply change the Spec and Re-Calculate the reports.

1. Identify the affected Specs. If the above ground drain, waste, and vent piping is changing from cast iron to PVC, it is possible that more than one Spec can be affected. If FastPIPE's plumbing details have been used, there may be an NHFIXT Spec in addition to an above grade no-hub piping Spec, such as NO-HUBTY. Make sure that the Specs apply only to the piping subject to the change.
2. Copy the new Specs into your job. In this case, it would most likely be the PVCDWVAG and the PVCFIXT Specs.
3. Modify the Headers. At the Takeoff tab, modify the header of each section to be modified by selecting the appropriate Section and using the drop down list to select the new Spec.
4. Re-Calculate the job. After modifying the Section Headers, re-calculate the job by clicking on the Reports tab and clicking on the Re-Calc button.
5. Identify any exceptions. If exceptions occur, click on the Exceptions button to view the list of Exceptions. A common exception that can occur when Specs are changed after takeoff has been completed is "Item not found." A selection button at the top of the report allows you to view the Exceptions "by Section". A printout of this report can be a handy aid to repairing the exceptions.

(more on back)

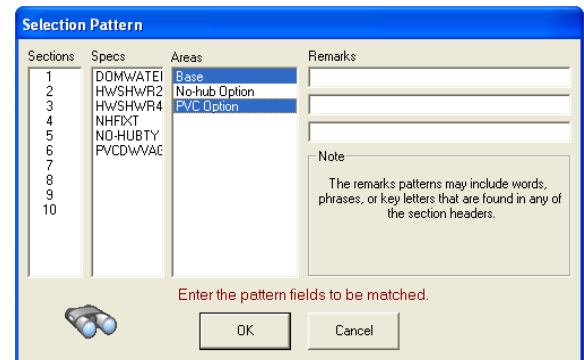
- Repairing the exceptions. Once you have recognized the exceptions, you need to open each of the sections listed in the exceptions report and edit the takeoff accordingly. In the list in our example, a 2"x 1½" Ferrule, which was available in the No-Hub Spec, is not available in the PVC Spec or is called something else. In the Takeoff list (as shown to the right), select the item and select the Delete button to delete it. Then take off a 2" Ftg CO wPlug to replace it.
- Re-calculate the report. If you re-calculate the report, you can verify that the exceptions have been corrected. We always recommend addressing all exceptions prior to downloading to a Worksheet.



### Method No.2

If need to retain the estimate in using both the current piping Spec and the revised Spec, there are two ways to do this. One is to copy the entire job and follow the steps in Method No. 1 for one of the jobs. (To copy a job, select the job and select File, then Copy 'JOB'. Another method is as follows:

- Identify the appropriate Specs and copy them into the job. (This is similar to Steps 1 and 2 in Method No. 1.)
- Copy the appropriate sections. On the takeoff tab, click on Copy and locate the job you are working on. Select the sections from the job, which are affected by the change. (By holding the Ctrl key on the keyboard, you can select more than one section at a time.)
- Modify the Headers. At the Takeoff tab, modify the header of the new sections to be modified by selecting the appropriate Section and using the drop down list to select the new Spec. Also enter an Area name that will define what you are trying to do, such as "PVC Option". (Once you select a name on the first section, you can select the Area name from the pop down list.)
- Modify the Headers of the existing sections. Modify the header of the existing sections enter an Area name, such as "No-Hub Option". This will allow you to calculate the sections separately.
- Re-Calculate the job. On the Reports tab, click on the drop down triangle on the Re-Calc button and select By Pattern... Select the Areas you would like to calculate and click OK. Run the reports as you usually do. Then, Re-Calc in a similar way and select the other option. The results then can be compared.



### New FastPIPE Customers

Alpha Plumbing & Heating, Inc. Rockville, MD	Halfar Plumbing Mohomet, IL	Hildeman Plumbing Crete, IL
Arnold's Plumbing & Heating, Inc. Ocean Port, NJ	Wisler Plumbing Wirtz, VA	CJ's Plumbing Lambertville, MI
WHS Plumbing William Washington, DC	Northern Plains Plumbing, Inc. Brandon, SD	Precision Mechanical Contractors Fort Wayne, IN
GW Hesse Plumbing Service Cincinnati, OH	Berea Plumbing, Inc. Florence, TX	Link Mechanical, Inc. Frankfort, IL
PM Contracting, Inc. Merriam, KS	Stanger Industries, Inc. Kansas City, MO	Mountain West Mechanical Rexburg, ID
Reliable Mechanical Savoy, IL	Dixie Plumbing, Inc. Jupiter, FL	Ranco Mechanical Newton, NJ