



Tiger Plumbing Earns Its Stripes

Whether you have an emergency service call or a long overdue bathroom renovation, you deserve a plumber who is knowledgeable, efficient, pleasant, clean and trustworthy in your home. The entire staff at Tiger Plumbing fit all of these characteristics.

Ed Van Dam founded Waterloo based Tiger Plumbing 10 years ago, originally as Canadian Certified Plumbers.

To better market his business, Ed transformed CCP into the more visually impactful Tiger Plumbing in 2003. "Since then, we've worked with a number of General Contractors, including Wyga Construction, PM Contracting and Sax Construction," he lists in a recent interview.

Van Dam Mechanical is Ed's ICI plumbing company which also has a rich history of success, 16 years of it.

Ed's done hundreds of jobs through VDM and is working on the plumbing portion of Knox Presbyterian Church on the northeast corner of Caroline and Erb streets. The place of worship will be outfitted with gas and in floor radiant heat. Ed explains how the process works in further detail.

Tiger Plumbing creates cozy floors using Wirsbo PEX Tubing. "We can perform all the necessary upgrades so that your radiant heating system will perform properly."

The marvel of radiant floor heat comes courtesy of a flexible piping system called cross-linked polyethylene (PEX). "It is easily installed and has been the standard in Europe for over 30 years," describes Ed.

the "X" refers to the cross-linking of the polyethylene across its molecular chains.

A flexible three-dimensional network makes PEX remarkably durable within a wide range of temperatures, pressures and chemicals. The Wirsbo PEX is cross-linked polyethylene with an oxygen infusion barrier. Its lifespan greatly exceeds copper.

In assessing the viability of hydronic warm-floor heating systems, be very careful as there can be installation setbacks. The tubing is the single most important element

of the system and not all tubing is created equal. Wirsbo PEX is the industry leader and the only tubing that Tiger Plumbing trusts.

It has been estimated that more than 4 billion feet of installed tubing continues to perform with virtually no product

failure. 500 million feet of that is in North America alone!

Samples of PEX tubing have been under high temperature and pressure continuously since 1973, with no sign of decreased performance. Tests performed by Wirsbo, Tiger Plumbing and other independent sources, predict a long life span.

A sure sign of spring in Ed's industry is the servicing of sump pumps. Once a basement floods it's a disaster zone.

There are three main preventative maintenance options: 1 - Using a battery back-up. 2 - An alarm to alert you when the pump fails. 3 - If there's room in your pit, an auxiliary sump pump should be installed. "You should have all three, especially if you've already been victimized by a flood or two

"Due to its plastic composition there is no soldering required – the whole system is linked together via compression."

PEX is an acronym for cross-linked polyethylene. The "PE" refers to the raw material used to make PEX (Polyethylene), and

and your insurance company says 'next time you're on your own'."

Galvanized water piping replacement is another big service of Tiger Plumbing. "Many insurance companies are no longer writing policies for these parts, since they tend to leak."

The rubber parts used in washing machines are also notorious for leaks. "They dry up and crack and worse yet, if this happens to a hot water hose or washer, the damage is much worse – mold and mildew grow way faster."

The whole Tri-city area is very susceptible to hard water. "Artesian wells in the area contribute to lime build up, corroding pipes, toilets and water heaters." In this situation, Ed recommends installing a high efficiency water softener. "They're metered to use very little salt – the ones we install are the best value, both commercially and residentially."

Bathroom renovations are a specialty for Ed, especially with Government rebates available to subsidize the cost.

In response to the sinking economy the Canadian government has implemented dozens of programs intended to pump \$63 billion into the Canadian economy.

The government is offering a \$1350 tax rebate directly to homeowners to be used for renovations like plumbing retrofits. "We offer a two year warranty on all the material we install," adds Ed. "Shop around locally

and you'll find our competitors warranties are typically only one year."

They are Kitchener Select Readers Choice award winners for 2008 and 2009. Ed aspires to claim the 2010 title as well, one drain at a time. **RC**

Some of Tiger's Strategic Business Associates:

PM Contracting Ltd. is a mid-size Construction Company providing services of Public Tender, Project Management and Design-Build for the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional and Multi-Residential building markets. (www.pmcontracting.ca)

Wyga Construction was established in 1983 and performs work for industrial, commercial and residential clients. Using their knowledge, experiences and a selection of engineering firms they provide services from initial design through to completion. (www.wyga.ca)

Marks Supply Inc., an Ontario based plumbing wholesaler, was established in 1962 and ran two locations in Kitchener and Guelph. In 1989, on the tail end of the building boom, they opened their 3rd location in Brantford. In the last few years they have added the following locations: Burlington 1992, London 1996, Niagara Falls 1998, Windsor in 2001 and their newest Etobicoke Showroom in 2009. (www.markssupply.net)

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