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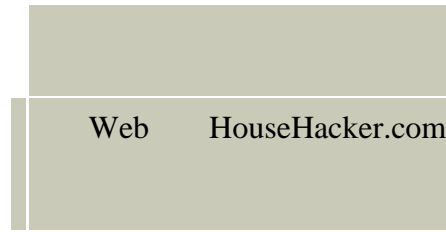
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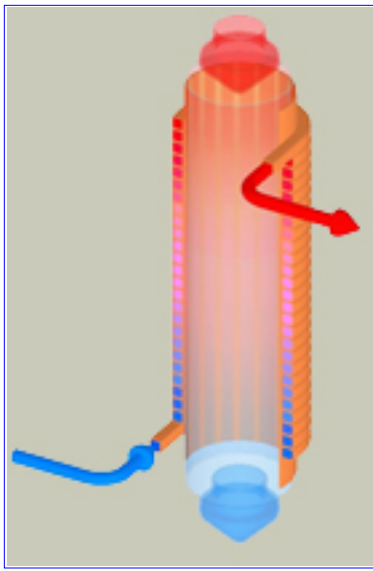
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PowerPipe Drainwater Heat Recovery System



03-29-2006 UPDATE: Please note that there appears to be a patent infringement [dispute](#) between PowerPipe and [GFX Technology](#). See first [comment below](#) for more.

-Sean

The PowerPipe drain water heat recovery system is a unique product that uses the hot water flowing down the drain to preheat the cold water entering the hot water heater. From [the site](#):

Power-Pipe™ raises the temperature of incoming cold water by recycling free heat from waste water going down the drain. Approximately 80% to 90% of all hot water energy goes down the drain, allowing the Power-Pipe™ to recycle as much as 60% of the wasted heat.

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Comments

[1](#) Posted 2006-03-29 08:27:28 by [James Darwin](#)

This Powerpipe is an illegal copy of the original GFX. The Powerpipe also uses recycled copper that is not recommended for potable water by the US and Canadian copper association due to contamination. This company is presently being sued for patent violation. The owners of the powerpipe are also charging 20% more than the GFX.

[2](#) Posted 2006-03-29 09:27:47 by Sean

Hmm, I found this [posting](#) by "Dr. Carmine F. Vasile, President & GFX's Inventor", explaining the alleged infringement. I don't want to be linking to someone who's stolen a product, but at the same time I'm obviously not aware of the details of the case. I'd like to put a link up to the company that claims to have invented it, gfxtechnology.com. What I will do is update the posting with a notice.

[3](#) Posted 2006-10-24 19:17:29 by David Brown

The posted results on the renewability (POWERPIPE) websites are false. The testing at Natural Resources Canada show that these numbers are far from the truth. Heat recovery from a Powerpipe is 30-35% while the GFX is 40 to 50% as posted on the WWW.GFXSTAR.CA website.

BUYER BEWARE OF FALSE CLAIMS MADE BY RENEWABILITY

[4](#) Posted 2007-01-26 17:53:10 by [Gerald Van Decker](#)

Hello Readers,

First, before all this I have to say that Drain-water Heat Recovery does and can work well to cost effectively save you money and energy in your home.

I am the founder and owner of Renewability Energy Inc. I developed the Power-Pipe and was the key person in developing the method of manufacturing it. The Power-Pipe never has been a GFX knock-off but rather a substantial improvement. Its performance has been verified by a large utility who tested it over several days and selected it over the GFX in a tendered process in early 2006. You can learn more about the Power-Pipe on our website.

I used to sell the GFX and had customer complaints with the single coil units (e.g. G3-60) so I quickly changed to selling the split coil units only (e.g. S3-60). The problem with the GFX is that you have to choose between low pressure drop and performance. I do not question that the G series of the GFX unit has decent performance; the problem is that the pressure drop causes water flow problems in homes under common circumstances. The testing report from Natural Resources Canada is not yet publicly available but I can say the R3-60 and G3-60 performance is not all that different.

Also, there are at least 2 other manufacturers of actual GFX "knock-offs" if you prefer to go that route. We responded with a "Statement of Defense" in July 2006 to a case that Waterfilm Energy submitted to the Ontario Superior Court; as of today (January 26, 2007) we have not heard any response or further action.

Furthermore, the copper used in the Power-Pipe is 100% approved and 100% safe. Our copper coil is sourced from 2 North American fabricators. Wolverine tube is one of the largest fabricators in North America; in their London, Ontario facility they use some pure recycled content. Our other supplier uses

pure mined copper stock. These are the only two fabricators that I know of in the US and Canada. I appreciate that their might be issues with copper tube from overseas where there might not be strict quality control.

Sincerely,
-Gerald Van Decker, P.Eng., M.A.Sc.
CEO and Founder, Renewability Energy Inc.
tel: 877-606-5559

[5](#) Posted 2009-08-26 01:46:51 by [Daniel Beauchemin](#)

Mr. Gerald Van Decker,

I am the founder of EcoInnovation Technologies and the manufacture of Eco-GFX units.

Let's get the facts straight about the 1st and 2nd generation GFX's.

The reason why you stopped selling the GFX was due to a legal matter between the manufacture and the patent holder in the USA that quickly stopped production. You had orders to fill in Canada so the "superior" 3rd generation heat exchangers were born in a hurry. You could not copy the 1st and 2nd generation heat exchanger designs because they were protected by a patent.

You did not develop the Powerpipe because of complaints from customers due to pressure drops. EcoInnovation continues to sell, install and manufacture these same Eco-GFX units for the past 5 years and have yet to receive one complaint about pressure drops. These same units have been in service for over 27 years, none of which have had any issues you mention.

The Eco-GFX First generation heat exchangers outperform your Powerpipes 3rd generation heat exchangers hands down. The Natural Resources Canada report you mentioned has been released and says that our technology has the highest effectiveness per wrap foot length in comparison with the Powerpipe. With a 15% efficiency per foot compared to a similar length Powerpipe rated at 12% per foot and with a lower manufacturing cost, the ThermoDrain and Eco-GFX remain the most economical and superior choice for drain water heat recovery applications. This large performance and price gap threatens your Powerpipes existence so you and your company continue to publicly attack our product on the basis that the pressure drop of our units is a problem and we have a low efficiency. Something that is totally unfounded.

I must say that your mission to bash our technology and products in public forums are considered a compliment and entertaining. Please continue your mission to under estimate the consumer.

Thank you,

Daniel Beauchemin
President
EcoInnovation Technologies Inc.
888-881-7693

[6](#) Posted 2009-09-21 17:41:47 by [Doug](#)

WOW! Cool idea, this technology really rocks.

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