

# **Rodent and Bacteria Attack**

## **on fiberglass-reinforced piping systems**

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### **Introduction**

Attacks by rodents on the protective coatings on metallic piping, electrical insulation and thermoplastic piping occur with some frequency and are well documented. These incidents, all involving conventional thermoplastics, naturally give rise to questions about the performance of fiberglass piping under the same conditions. In the case of rodent attack, fiberglass-reinforced piping can be exposed to rodents without any detrimental effects whatever.

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### **Rodents and thermoplastics**

Rodents are attracted to thermoplastics for two reasons:

1. The plasticisers in some thermoplastics (especially PVC) taste and smell good to many rodents. It has even been reported that “some thermoplastics have a nutritive value for rodents... [the thermoplastics are] good for them.”
2. Rodents need to chew and gnaw. Nature provides them with teeth that continually grow in length and which they need to pare down to a manageable size. Hence, they will gnaw at almost anything they can fracture with their jaws.

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### **Rodents and thermosets**

The major reasons why rodents are not attracted to FRP are as follows:

1. When fully cured, the thermosetting epoxy and vinyl ester resins used in Ameron pipe and fittings are tasteless and odorless, thus offering no attraction for rodents.
2. The surface of fiberglass pipe and fittings is very hard and difficult to dent. There is no place for a rodent to begin gnawing.

The experience of Ameron and other pipe manufacturers bears out these statements.

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### **Microbial attack**

The components of fiberglass piping systems do not provide an environment which supports bacterial growth. The material by itself will not induce such growth nor would it be affected by it. Ameron fiberglass pipe has been installed in diverse climactic and soil conditions both below and above ground for many years. It has been exposed to a broad spectrum of the world’s known bacterial strains without a documented case of bacterial attack.

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## Important notice

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