



CLARIFICATION ON DRILLING B-VENT **Issued March 2007**

BPI does not recommend drilling B-vent, nor does BPI prohibit it.

Some B-vent manufacturers have specifications for drilling and sealing a manufactured pipe. Local building codes may or may not allow the practice. The BPI Certified Professional is advised to check with the local code official.

The issue with drilling B vent is the inability to properly seal the inner liner. It is recommended that you do not drill B vent unless either the manufacturer or local code official indicates this as an acceptable practice. The code official should also be consulted to provide instruction in writing as to the proper (e.g., approved for your jurisdiction) method of sealing the test hole (outer and inner liners).

In the manufacturer letters, such as those posted on the Bacharach site, they all state that they prefer B-vent not be drilled. They also go on to say, "we don't believe this would affect the UL list". The question that arises, is do they know for sure?

B vent construction is crucial, because if the seal is lost, it will create its own environment for destruction, and will ultimately fail. There are two dissimilar metals in B vent and two types of each. One is a thin steel lining on the outside with a thin aluminum lining on the inside. The other is a thin steel lining on the outside and a thin stainless steel lining on the inside. This is done for a reason, to prevent the outer lining from rust damage caused by exhaust gas condensation (which will also create sulfuric acid).

Note- Ultimately, it is not the manufactures, code officials or BPI that shall approve the practice of drilling B vent, but rather Underwriters Laboratory. It is UL that places the listing on the product and not the manufacturer, code officials or BPI.

Even when drilling single-wall, many code officials frown on the practice. Try to use an existing screw hole if one is available within the proper testing range, and seal it with a slightly larger lag screw with a quality grade of silicone RTV like DOW 732 or similar. Silver tape, if properly selected for high-temp applications may work, but has been known to dry and fall off, and high-temp, strong-adhesive tape is not commonly stocked in many places. Code officials will never dock you for using too many screws, but will get fussy when you leave holes.

If you have any additional questions now or in the future, please do not hesitate to contact:

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