

STYRENE AND CIPP SAFETY

The topic of styrene safety has been making headlines lately, and since it is often used in the cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) process, it is important you know the facts.

Styrene has been studied and regulated for decades.

- SIRC is the Styrene Information Research Center. Since 1987 it has invested more than \$25 million in robust research programs dedicated to learning as much as possible about styrene exposure and the potential health effects and environmental impacts of styrene.
- According to SIRC, styrene health effects and worker safety have been studied for more than 50 years. Those scientific studies have been the basis for informing company industrial hygiene policies and government regulation.
- There are many government agencies that have investigated the health, safety, and environmental aspects of styrene. The two agencies that have regulations regarding styrene are the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Research specific to worker exposure in CIPP installation has also been studied.

- Since 2016, NASSCO, Inc. has funded third-party research from leading universities to determine the potential impact of styrene exposure, if any, to workers who install CIPP. Phase 1 determined that previous reports were non-conclusive. Phase 2 and Phase 3 identified specific ways for workers to stay safe on the job site (see below).

It is important to follow best practices when using styrene-based resins in CIPP:

- Include a 15-foot perimeter around the exhaust manhole.
- Make sure the exhaust stack is vertical and at least 6' in height.
- Wear appropriate PPE when required by your employer.
- Read [NASSCO's 1-page list of recommendations](#).
- Take the online CIPP Safety Exam at [The NASSCO Training Source](#).

Styrene has a very strong odor, even at very low levels.

- Gasoline at the pump also has a very strong odor. So does nail polish remover. These are warning signs to follow best practices in the safe use and handling of these substances.
- Because of styrene's strong odor, it often causes concern for the general population. Utilize NASSCO's consumer education tools to inform system owners and residents on ways to minimize styrene odors in buildings.

CONSUMER EDUCATION TOOLS



Tools are available to help the public understand styrene odors and how to minimize them from entering their home or business.



[What's that odor? Brochure](#)

[What's that odor? Video](#)

When possible, consider scheduling installations in highly populated areas (schools, business, etc.) during off hours.



Click/scan for research results, resources, and more information on styrene safety.



NASSCO is always available to answer questions or concerns you may have on this topic or any other subject relating to health, safety, and the environment. Email Safety@NASSCO.org or visit [NASSCO.org/Safety/styrene-safety](https://www.nassco.org/Safety/styrene-safety).