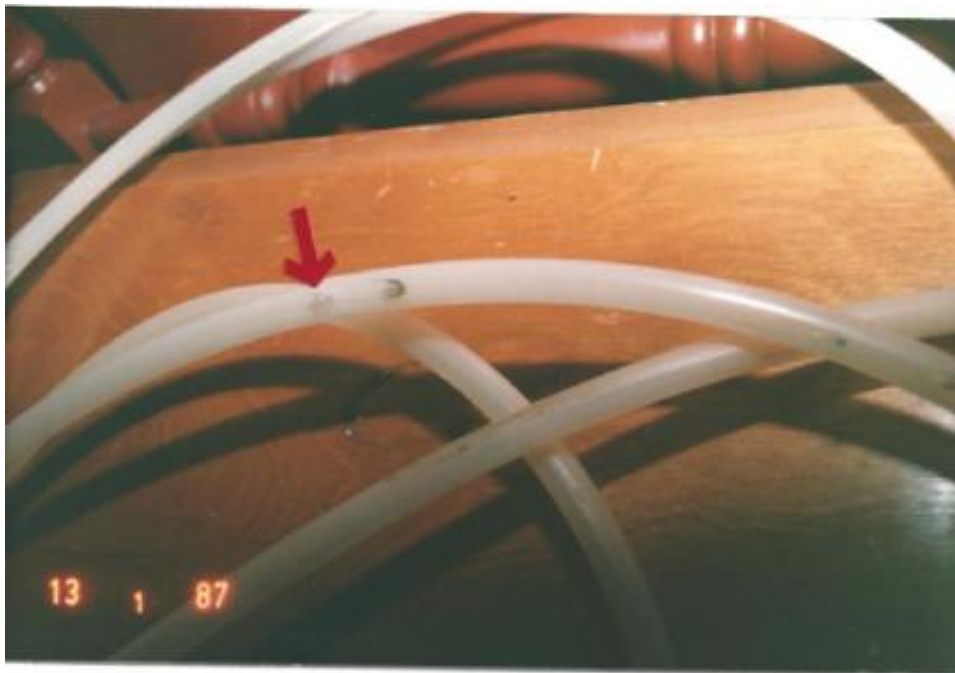


## “KEEPING PACE” - #20

### MORE ON LATENT DEFECTS:

In “KEEPING PACE” - #16, we discussed how plastic electrical insulation can take a long time to break down into a short circuit (kind of a current leak) after it is damaged. The photograph below shows a section of plastic water tubing which was damaged by being pulled against the sharp edge of a furnace vent when it was installed in the attic of a home. A water leak did not develop until seven years later, when the plastic wall of the tubing finally degraded enough to open. That resulted in a small insurance claim for flooding. This is another example of how a latent defect in plastic can take years to manifest itself.



Sincerely,

Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.  
Forensic Engineer