

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST)

CSST Gas Pipe Material Class Action Settlement

DISCLAIMER: It is beyond the scope of a Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) home inspection to provide product recall or litigation information. TREC does not require identification of gas line materials. The following is provided as limited and supplemental information.

Do not become panic stricken if your home has CSST. Simply contact www.csstsettlement.com or a plumber for further evaluation.

CSST is used to transmit gas in residential, commercial and industrial structures. CSST consists of a continuous, flexible, stainless steel pipe, and typically is covered with a yellow exterior plastic coating. In the case of one of the products is covered with a black exterior coating with yellow lettering. CSST typically is routed beneath, through and alongside floor joists, inside interior wall cavities and on top of ceiling joists in attic space from a gas source to an appliance. CSST **does not include** gas-appliance connectors

The lawsuit claims that CSST poses an unreasonable risk of fire due to lightning strikes. Plaintiffs allege that the CSST tubing is not thick enough to prevent damage to the CSST in the event of a lightning strike and that Defendants failed to warn consumers about these alleged dangers. The Settling Defendants deny these allegations and assert that their CSST is safe if properly installed in accordance with local codes and the manufacturers' instructions.

Lightning is a highly destructive force. Even a nearby lightning strike that does not strike a structure directly can cause systems in the structure to become energized. Proper bonding and grounding may reduce the risk of damage and fire from certain lightning strikes. If systems that could become energized by lightning are not all properly bonded, the differences in potential between such systems may cause the charge to arc from one system to another. Arcing can cause damage to CSST. Bonding and grounding CSST will help reduce the risk of arcing and related damage. Many early CSST installations were not bonded.

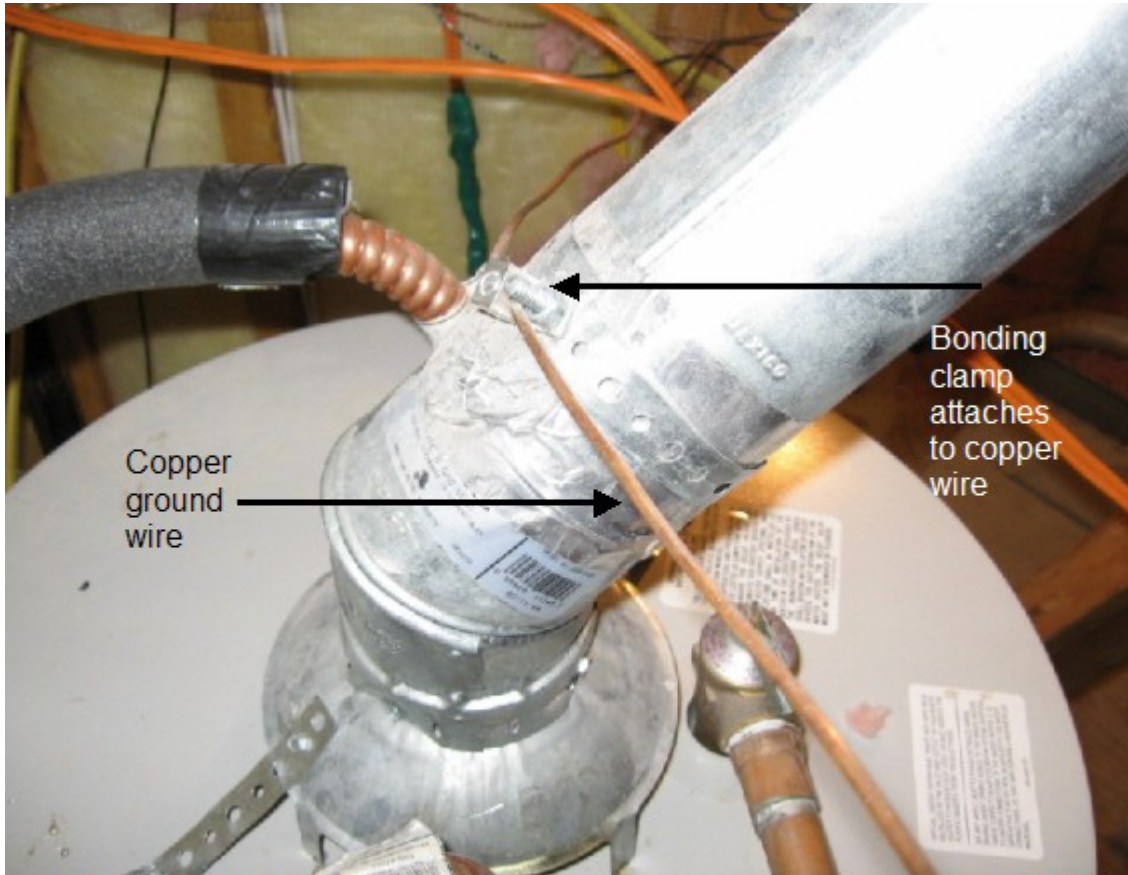
Keep in mind that the home must be struck by lightning or have a nearby strike that transmits the energy to your home. Any home, even those with lightning suppression systems, can catch on fire from a lightning strike. Lightning suppression systems are rare in North Texas. CIS does not inspect them if encountered.

The Settlement Class consists of any and all persons and/or entities who own structures in the United States in which CSST manufactured by Settling Defendants was installed as of September 5, 2006 ("Settlement Class Members").

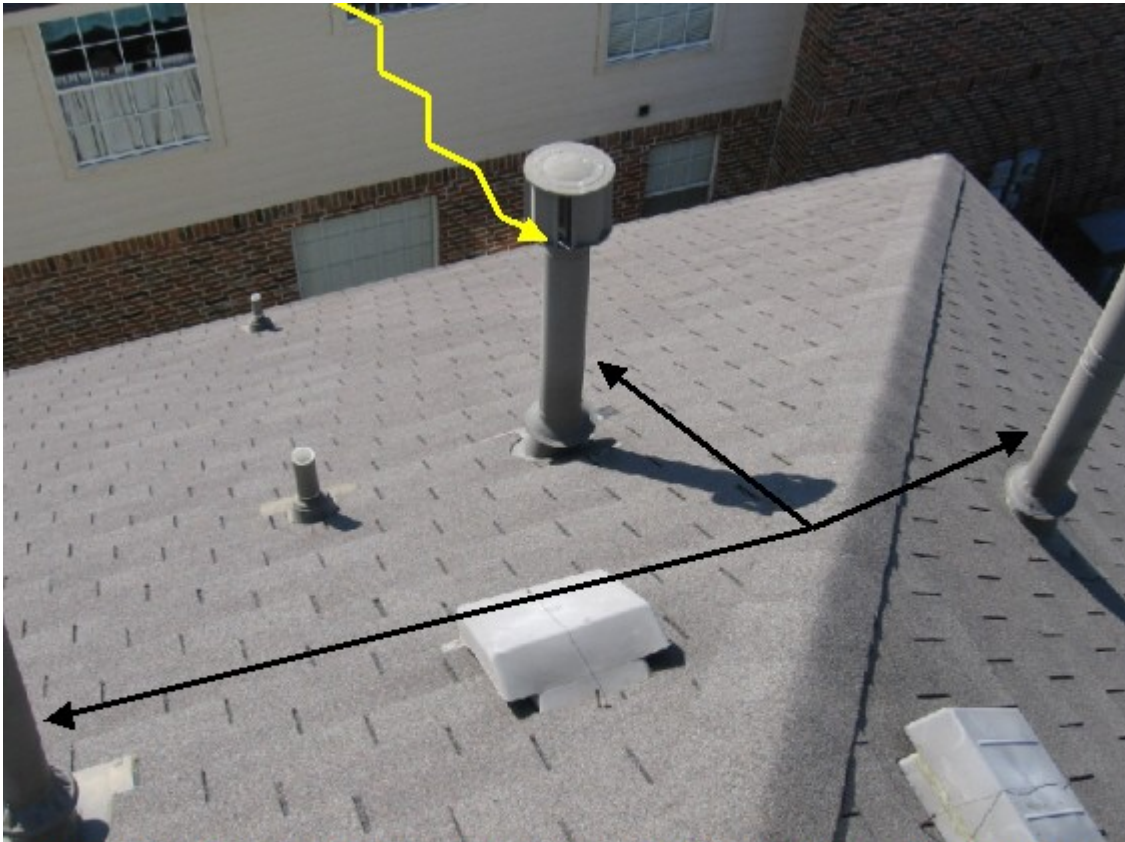
For detailed information on CSST Settlement go to www.csstsettlement.com.

If you do not feel qualified to determine if your gas pipe system contains CSST we can inspect your system for a fee of \$75 to \$95 dollars if you are in our travel area. Crawlspace areas are an extra charge. Look at the pictures below to see if your home has CSST. Call us if you are unsure.

Click on photo to enlarge. If it does not enlarge turn on your pop ups.



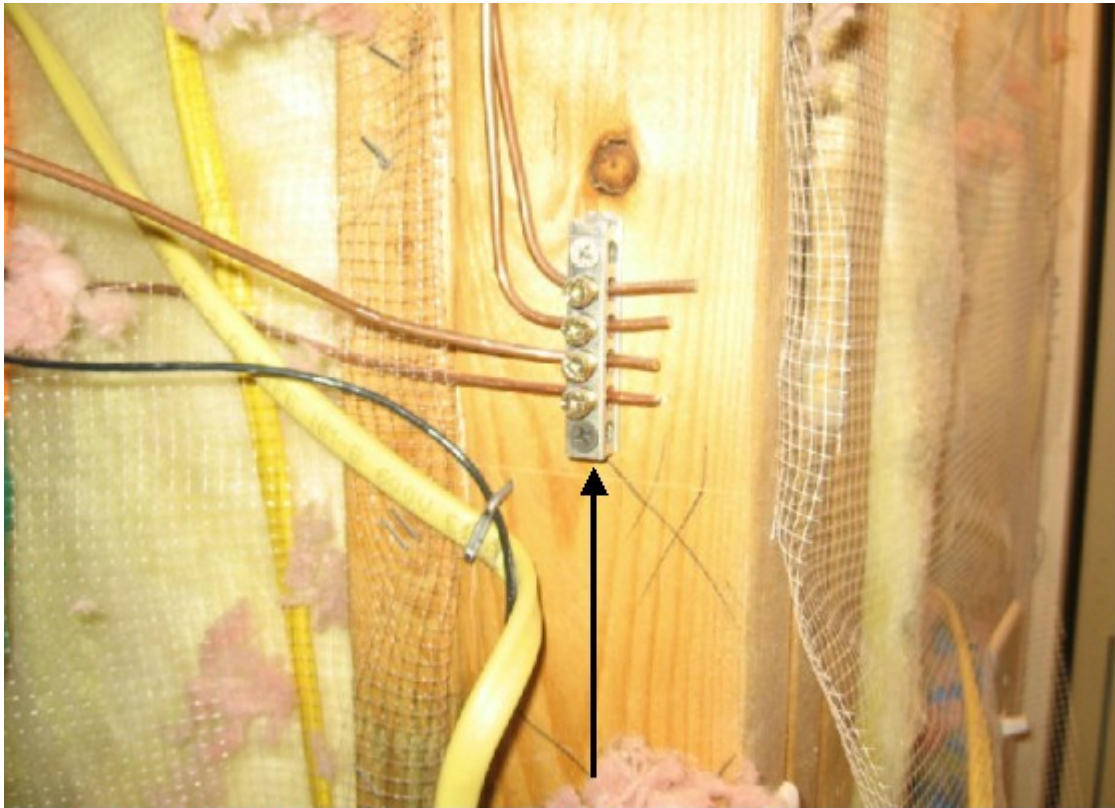
This water heater is bonded (improper slang is "grounded") by means of a metal strap and copper conductor (wire). The copper conductor is routed to a ground. This is one way of reducing lightning risk. Always defer to the manufacturers recommendation.



Possibility? IF lightning strikes the metal flue pipes the current could be carried to the CSST gas pipe and cause a failure and fire. On the other hand IF lightning struck ANY home directly a fire could start.



A CSST system with each pipe nicely labeled as to application.



These copper conductors (wires) come together on this clamp. Each conductor goes to a different item. For example, one may go to the water heater flue, another to the furnace flue and another to the metal fireplace chimney. This is one way of reducing lightning risk. One might wonder how hot the clamp will become if hit by lightning. Would it cause the wood framing to ignite if struck? Always defer to the manufacturers recommendation.