



ntonio Delacerda, master plumber, contractor, and owner of A-Team Plumbing in Tulsa, Oklahoma started his business after spending 21 years in the Army, finding inspiration for his company from the memories he had of helping his dad on jobsites as a kid.

Today, he's the owner of a growing plumbing company with eight team members, each of them veterans who bring their military problem-solving skills and commitment to quality to their work. It was those same problem-solving skills that got the A-Team into pipe patching.

"I PREFER TO DO PIPE PATCHING TO NOT DISRUPT THE CLIENT'S YARD, TO TAKE AWAY FROM WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DEAL WITH TO PUT THEIR YARD TOGETHER AGAIN.

While doing an excavation, Antonio and his team ran into a 15,000-volt utility line that an underground locating company didn't find with their equipment. Thankfully, the hit didn't cause harm but was alarming enough to shutdown work and remind Antonio of the risks of excavating to do a pipe repair.

This is one of the reasons Antonio

and his team got into pipe patching, a solution based off of cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) that has been used for years globally as a structural repair in short sections of broken and damaged pipe. Today, newer pipe patching systems that eliminate the need to dig have entered the market, providing additional options for trenchless repairs. Fully cured fiberglass patches surpass ASTM F1216 requirements and have a life expectancy range of up to 50 years.

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Along with the safety benefits, Antonio also saw the appeal of this type of repair for customers wanting to save their landscaping investment.

"I prefer to do pipe patching to not disrupt the client's yard, to take away from what they are going to have to deal with to put their yard together again," said Antonio. "All you have to do is access a clean out, from the clean out you can push that patch into place."

After meeting with several plumbers, one homeowner saw the benefit of pipe



ANTONIO DELACERDA

TITLE OWNER

COMPANY A-TEAM PLUMBING







patching when it helped him save his koi fishpond.

"Someone told him to call us about pipe patching. It turned out it was the city main that was cracked, and the customer's sewer line where the T met the city line needed repaired, and it was under the koi pond," said Antonio. "They didn't want to dig up their pond, but the city said they had to until we were able to help. We made two holes 10 to 15 feet in from the pond and then put in a 3-foot patch, and we saved the fish!"

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The A-Team also regularly gets calls from local real estate agents and potential homebuyers. For example, they got a

call from someone in the process of selling their home who had failed the static pressure test. They were able to put a camera into the pipes and show the homeowner several places where they could patch seams to repair the issue.

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The A-Team used to use other brands of pipe patching, but since switching to the RIDGID® Pipe Patching Kits, they have completed more than 35 patches. This has saved them having to dig up more than 600 feet of pipe using the RIDGID system.

"The stress level is a whole lot less now that we switched it all to RIDGID," said

Antonio, who purchased the 2-inch and 3- to 4-inch Pipe Patching Starter Systems. "It's still a little messy, but it's so much easier. The one thing I really like about it is the resin containers. It's so much easier. I can control pouring the resin into the patch. The other thing that I like are the push rods, and that the ring on the top of the packer doesn't clip on, it screws on. The other brands, we've broken off the nose of the packer but haven't broken RIDGID's."

RIDGID Pipe Patching Kits let users make fiberglass repairs on up to 6 feet of 2 – 6-inch pipe in hours and can be used on all sections of pipe, including straights, bends, transitions, and p-traps. Get high-quality, long-lasting results in a fraction of the time. Show up, clean, inspect, and patch, all in one job.



