

A TYPICAL INSTALLATION USING FLOPLAST MDPE PIPES AND FITTINGS

What does MDPE stand for?

The most common misconception is that MDPE stands for Mains Direct Pipe, however what does the E stand for? What it actually stands for is Medium Density PolyEthylene.

What is the colour of MDPE (Water Mains Pipe)?

The colour of MDPE is blue however you may come across a black version, there were commonly four versions of this black pipe, called Alkathene available, Low and High Density and Class 'C' and 'D' within each density. If there are no identifying markings on the outside of the black pipe then it is extremely difficult to know which you have come across. To alleviate the confusion that was being caused due to these differences, MDPE was launched for the water services market so that a common standard of pipe and one uniform colour was used throughout the United Kingdom.

What is MDPE used for?

MDPE is built for durability and is mainly used in an underground situation to supply fresh water to a house or building, in commercial or agricultural applications. The pipe may be seen in an above ground situation, however if used above ground it should be lagged to assist against freezing, and also protect against Ultra Violet degradation.



What size does MDPE come in for domestic homes?

There are several sizes available from 20mm – 63mm for domestic situations. However for a domestic installation water supply 25mm is the most common size, with 20mm being the next most popular.

How deep should MDPE be installed?

MDPE should be a minimum 750mm/75cm, or for those who still revert to imperial sizes 29½" below ground. It should either be protected by sand or other soft material without any rubble being in the back fill. The trench should be wide enough to detect any other pipes and should be a minimum of 350mm away from a gas or electricity pipe.