

Some questions most often asked about Qual-PEX and the Crimp System

Q: Is Qual-PEX AND THE Qual-PEX CRIMP system approved for drinking water?

A: Yes. Qual-PEX systems are specifically tested and approved to carry drinking water by WRAS.

Q: Can Qual-PEX CRIMP System be buried in concrete?

A: If it is necessary to make a joint in concrete, allow 1% for expansion and contraction. It is also necessary to completely cover the aluminium ring so it does NOT come in contact with the concrete

Q: Does Qual-PEX CRIMP system require lagging under floors?

A: Lagging is not required under intermediate floors, but should be used where Qual-PEX is run under ground floors or in unheated spaces, for frost protection and energy conservation. Heat loss is less from Qual-PEX than from rigid pipes, and Qual-PEX is resistant to bursting down to -20°C.

Q: Does the Qual-PEX CRIMP System reduce installation time and cost?

A: Yes. Once the installer gets used to working with the Qual-PEX CRIMP System, up to 20% savings can be made in the labour content alone.

Q: Can inhibitors be used on Qual-PEX CRIMP System?

A: Yes. Inhibitors are recommended for all heating systems.

Q: What effect does hard water have on the Qual-PEX CRIMP System?

A: The smooth bore and flexibility of Qual-PEX prevents lime scale adhering to the inner surface of the pipe.

Q: What effect does soft water have on the Qual-PEX CRIMP System?

A: None. Unlike rigid metal pipes, the Qual-PEX CRIMP System is not dissolved or corroded by soft acidic water.

Q: Can the Qual-PEX CRIMP System be used on solid fuel central heating systems?

A: Qual-PEX CRIMP System can be used on the secondary side of a solid fuel heating system. Qual-PEX should not be used for primary pipe-work on gravity systems.

Q: Can Qual-PEX CRIMP System be used on sealed central heating systems?

A: Yes, provided that usual working temperatures of 82 degrees are not exceeded.

Q: Can Qual-PEX Crimp System be painted?

A: Yes. Qual-PEX CRIMP System can be painted, using water based paints.

Q: Can pipe jointing compounds be used with Qual-PEX?

A: Yes. Both Boss White and Foliac compounds have tested satisfactorily with Qual-PEX only on compression and threaded joints. No jointing compounds are required on the Qual-PEX crimp system other than PTFE tape on threaded joints.

Q: Can Qual-PEX CRIMP System be used for gas pipe or for carrying oil?

A: No. Qual-PEX CRIMP System is only guaranteed for use with water.

Q: Is the Qual-PEX CRIMP System subject to damage if flux ingress arises from soldered fittings?

A: Yes, no fluxes of any type should come in contact with Pipelife Ireland pipe and fittings. If fluxes are to be used in an environment where our fittings are installed, then extreme care should be taken to ensure that no such contact takes place.

Q: Do Pipelife have any guidance or recommendations with regard to ClO₂ (chlorine dioxide) levels?

A: Yes, Pipelife Ireland pipe and fittings are not suitable for use in systems which have high concentrations of chlorine, e.g. swimming pools. Short term chlorination for disinfection will not have an adverse effect on the system. Sustained exposure to chlorine levels above 0.5ppm should be avoided, however these concentrations do not normally arise in potable water supplies.

Q: Do Pipelife have any guidance or recommendations with regard to the use of trace heating tapes?

A: Trace heating tape has no adverse reaction on Pipelife PB, or PEX, pipe as long as it does not exceed the maximum temperatures as per Pipelife guidelines. Trace heating generally works on very low temperatures, and will be well below the maximum temperatures recommended by Pipelife.

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Q: Do Pipelife recommend pressure testing with Air or Water?

A: We do not recommend pressure testing of joints with compressed air, only water for pressure system testing. Water will detect any leaks and is far safer. N.B. In winter, (freezing conditions), due care must be taken to avoid damage to pipes in the event of water freezing in the pipes. This causes catastrophic damage to PEX pipes. Refer to BS EN 806.

Q: What are the fittings made from?

A: The polymer fittings are made from a high performance thermoplastic. The polymer fittings can withstand high temperatures and will not corrode. The aluminium is annealed (heat treated) and is also air force grade.

Q: Where are the fittings manufactured?

A: The fittings are made in New Zealand by the largest plumbing and heating pipe and fitting manufacturer in that country. The Qual-PEX pipe is manufactured in Cork, Ireland.

Q: Can the Qual-PEX CRIMP fittings be used with other pipes?

A: The Qual-PEX CRIMP fittings are not approved for use with copper, stainless steel or non Qual-PEX pipes. The Qual-PEX CRIMP fittings are only approved with Pipelife Qual-PEX Irish sizes.