



HANDLING, TRANSPORTATION & STORAGE – INLINE EXTRUDED PIPES

All products MUST be inspected on arrival. For further information on Inspection on Arrival please [visit this link](#) or use this QR code:



HANDLING

This section specifically outlines the requirements for the handling of INFRAPIPE™ pipes and fittings that have been inline extruded – i.e. the FARMPPIPE, CIVILPIPE and pressure pipe products. Spiral-wound (KRAH) products – INFRAPIPE™, INFRATANK, ECOPIPE and manholes – have additional requirements, please read the [separate guide accessible here](#).

LOADING & UNLOADING

Polyethylene and polypropylene pipes and fittings are light in weight and easy to handle compared to many other materials. They have considerable resilience, flexibility and resistance to impact; however, PE/PP pipes and fittings can be scored by sharp edges and can be distorted underload, particularly at higher temperatures. Therefore, in general, PE pipes and fittings shall not be dropped, indented, crushed or impacted and shall not be subjected to rough handling during loading and unloading operations.

- The vehicle must be stopped and braked on level ground with sufficient room for the evolution.
- Appropriate personnel exclusion zones shall apply when lifting PE pipe in order to avoid injury if the pipe slips.
- In hot weather with black pipes the pipe surface may become hot and gloves or other protection may be needed.
- When removing securing straps or chains, care must be taken to ensure the load has not shifted.
- Lifting of individual pipes or packs up to 6.5m in length may be performed by a forklift. To prevent drooping of long packs or individual pipes and subsequent scuffing of pipe wends, two lifting points or a spreader bar should be used for pipes or pipe packs exceeding 6.5 metres in length.
- Ensure fork tines are in the widest position.
- When lifting packs of pipes, the tines of the forklift must be placed under the entire pack, and the tines not pushed into the pack.
- Operate with the load as close to the ground as practicable without risking contact to the ground.
- Neither pipes nor packs can be lifted by hooks, strops or ropes that are fed through the pipe or act on the ends of the pipe alone.
- Care must be taken to release coils in a controlled manner as they are under tension.

Points to avoid:

- Damage to or crushing of the socket.
- Twisting, damaging or cutting the straps, twine or boxing.
- DO NOT FORGET THE RUBBER RINGS if ordered.
- It is important to ensure the socket or spigot ends of the pipe are not supporting any of the pipes weight when loaded/unloaded as this can impact the reliability of the pipe joint.



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TRANSPORTATION

All INFRAPIPE™ pipes shall be supported and secured in a way that prevents excessive deformation to the pipe cross section and shall minimise the risk of bowing or twisting the pipes.

If INFRAPIPE™ has supplied wooden dunnage for non-crated product that the pipes will sit on in transit to mitigate the risk of pipes deforming during transport, this dunnage is to be taken off the truck and used for storing the pipes onsite.

It is important to note that the height of the stack shall be limited if there is a risk of damaging or deforming pipes. Nesting of pipes inside each other is encouraged as this is not only an economical way of transporting INFRAPIPE™, but an advantage of the lightweight profile pipe system.



Ratchet tie downs with safety latches are the preferred method of restraint for transportation

All supports, restraints and packing will be transported in a manner to prevent point loading, scraping, shock or any other damage during transit.

INFRAPIPE™ is best tied down using nylon ratchet tie-downs and if chains are used, they should never come into direct contact with the pipes and fittings.

MOVING THE PIPE ONSITE

- If pipe needs to be moved onsite then it is to be done in accordance with loading and unloading as above.
- When pipe is moved, sufficient dunnage needs to be available so that the pipes can be laid down on suitable dunnage.
- Do not drag or pull the pipe.
- Ensure ends, sockets or spigots are protected from damage or the ingress of material.



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STORAGE

Suitable storage sites are to be chosen that have enough area to store any pipes that will not be in use throughout the installation project. When selecting a storage area, it is important to consider:

- The site is level and firm.
- It is clear of combustible materials to minimise the risk of fire damage,
- If long-term storage is required (2 months or more) the pipes may need to be covered. If in doubt, cover the pipes.
- There is no obstruction to vehicles, pedestrians, and property access.
- All pipes are stored 2 metres away from a trench or excavation.



Pipe Storage

There can be risk to personnel from unsafe storage in particular avoid the following:

- Storing different size crates on each other.
- Differential heating and cooling of exposed pipe lengths due to the tracking of sunlight may cause pipe stored on racks to move and possibly fall causing serious injury or death. When storing pipe in elevated racks ensure the pipe is well restrained and unable to fall.

Important aspects to check are:

- Avoid sunlight and other heat sources where possible.
- Avoid potential contact with oils, petrols, solvents or chemicals.
- The sockets, spigots or ends of the pipes are free from any load and all ends are clear of debris.
- Ensure that the bottom layer of pipes that are stored in stacks are not going to deform over time under load.
- Pipes are supported in a manner that will limit longitudinal deformation.
- If pipes are stored loose, then adequate chocks must be provided to prevent the stack collapsing.
- Don't lose the rubber rings.
- If unsure, please check with the Project Manager allocated by INFRAPIPETM.