

# Installing plastic pipes

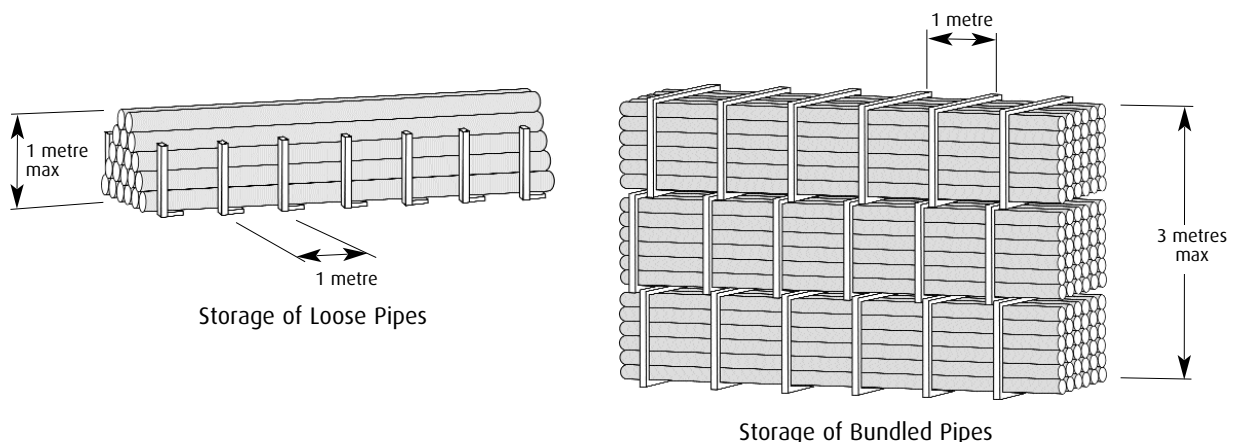
## Storage and handling of plastic pipes

### Pipe transportation

When transporting plastic pipes, care must be taken to ensure that the pipes are fully supported during movement in order to prevent bending, sagging or stressing. Vehicles should be capable of supporting the full length of pipe. - the unsupported overhang must not exceed 1m. Any surfaces that may be in contact with material should be free of nails or sharp edges. Where side supports are used they should be smooth, free from sharp edges, and at centres of not more than 1.5m. Pipes should always be loaded with the heaviest at the bottom.

### Pipe storage and handling

Pipes should be stored flat and without any bending stresses. Storage heights should not normally exceed 1m, however pipes in timber storage frames may be stacked to heights not exceeding 1.5m. The total stack height of pipes in timber storage frames should not exceed 3m. Where storage frames are used they should provide a minimum of 75mm bearing width at centres of not greater than 1m. When the storage includes pipes of different diameters and weights, it is advisable to stack the largest and/or heaviest on the bottom.



Both pipes and fittings should be protected against UV radiation, and protected against dirt and moisture. A general recommendation is to store the pipes and fittings indoors in the manufacturers original packaging, until they are required for installation.

Wide fabric or nylon slings should be used for pipe lifting. Hooks, chains or metal slings must never be used.

Special care should be taken when handling and transporting PVC-U or PVC-C at temperatures at or below 0°C as they become brittle at low temperatures.

In summary, the following guidelines should always be followed:

- pipes should be supported along their length during transportation and storage
- loading and storage areas should be free from nails, sharp edges or stones
- do not throw or drop pipes from vehicles
- pipes must never be dragged along the ground
- pipes should not be stacked excessively high
- protect pipes from direct sunlight
- ensure that stored pipes do not come into contact with unsuitable chemicals or oils
- take extra care when handling pipes in cold weather conditions
- examine all pipes prior to use, and disregard any pipes that are damaged, gouged or badly scratched

### Fittings storage

Plastic pipe fittings should preferably be stored in their original packaging until required for use. It is not advisable to store loose plastic pipe fittings in storage bins together with metal pipe fittings. This is because grease and oils can contaminate the plastic material, occasionally leading to stress cracking of the plastic.