



PVC  Pipes



What is PVC4Pipes?

PVC4Pipes is the new association founded in Brussels in 2003 with the mission of developing and promoting sustainable PVC piping systems in the global market. It will also work to complement the existing associations and industry bodies involved in the PVC pipe arena, help stimulate the innovative power of the industry and demonstrate and promote the strength and success of PVC piping systems.

PVC4Pipes has two main areas of activity – technical and communication. On the technical side the organisation is working to harmonise pipe standards, in particular as part of the development of PVC pipes made of recycled material. On the communication front PVC4Pipes is working to provide the latest information on PVC Pipes in exhibitions, seminars and conferences and to make it available to our specifiers, decision makers, and stakeholders.

Who are PVC4Pipes' Members?

Currently PVC4Pipes has over 30 members representing all areas of the PVC pipe supply chain including pipe manufacturers, PVC producers, additive and machinery manufacturers as well as a number of Institutes and Associations.

Where is PVC used?

Over 31% of all pipes in Europe are made of PVC and on the global market PVC represents 39% of all pipes. PVC is currently used in a wide spectrum of applications from drinking water to sewage collection, from gas distribution to electrical networks.

Why is PVC used in pipes?

- **PVC Pipes have been tried and tested**

PVC pipes have been used for more than 60 years and show that they have very long-lasting material properties.

- **PVC Pipes are easy to install and maintain**

PVC pipes are lighter than other materials and easy to install. Once installed, they require minimal or no maintenance and upkeep.

- **PVC Pipes are immune to corrosion**

PVC pipes do not rust, scale, pit or react chemically with the material they are designed to convey. They also resist bio-film formation better than metal or concrete pipes, helping to provide constant water quality for example.

- **PVC Pipes are strong and durable**

PVC pipes are strong, yet flexible enough to bend without breaking, allowing them to endure earth movement. PVC pipes offer a projected life span of more than 100 years without any loss in strength. No degradation of pipes is observed over time.

- **PVC Pipes stop leakage**

Experience has demonstrated that PVC pipes help reduce leakage. PVC is also compatible with all other materials used in pipe networks and therefore ensures a secure interface is maintained.

- **PVC Pipes are recyclable**

PVC pipes at the end of their life can be collected and easily recycled and used in new products. Not only can PVC be recycled and reused but its material properties remain intact through several use phases.

- **PVC Pipes are cost-efficient**

PVC Pipes have an excellent cost-price performance connected directly with their low maintenance and low installation costs, long life-span and efficient waste management.





What does the future hold?

As with all materials and all products constant changes and developments are being undertaken and new applications researched and introduced.

We are seeing some major changes in the production of PVC pipes and also new applications coming on the market including:

- The introduction of new stabilisers following the phase out of cadmium and the planned phase out of lead based systems by 2015.
- The production of larger diameter pipes with structured and foam walls.
- New systems using PVC pipes for relining existing pipe networks.
- Bi-orientated pipes increasing strength and flexibility of PVC pipe systems.
- Multilayer pipes using PVC recyclate being introduced.

What about sustainability and PVC Pipes?

The whole PVC industry, and not just the pipe sector, is actively working to ensure that PVC is a sustainable material playing its part in a sustainable society. Vinyl 2010 – the Voluntary Commitment of the PVC Industry is a 10 year programme covering all phases of the product lifecycle, from production to disposal.

A large part of this commitment involves working towards the recycling of 200.000 tonnes of post consumer waste by 2010.

The PVC pipe industry is an integral part of this Commitment and it is currently working to increase the recycling of post-consumer pipes across the EU.

Collection schemes are being introduced and recycling undertaken through a project managed by the European Plastic Pipe and Fittings Association (TEPPFA) and with the support of RECOVINYL SA.

As part of this Voluntary Commitment TEPPFA has committed to recycle at least 50% of all the collectable available pipe and fittings waste by 2005 and it is well on the way to meet this target.

Want to know more about PVC4Pipes?

Please feel free to contact PVC4Pipes and more information can be obtained from:

Steve Tan
Executive Director PVC4Pipes

Av. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4/4
BE-1160 Brussels, Belgium
Tel : +44 7802 253238