

Selection of materials

PE: Polyethylene



Polyethylene (PE) is a partially-crystalline thermoplastic from the polyolefin group of materials, and it is characterised by its low density when compared to other thermoplastics. A unique combination of properties including mechanical strength, chemical resistance and thermal stability all combine to make polyethylene one of the most popular piping systems materials.

Polyethylene is non-polar and exhibits a good resistance against a variety of chemicals, however strong oxidising acids attack the material. Good chemical resistance is achieved against contact with solvents, such as alcohols, esters and ketones. Consequently, solvent cement welding of PE pipes and fittings is not possible. When compared to other thermoplastics, PE shows excellent diffusion resistance, and because of this property, polyethylene has been successfully applied for the safe transportation of gases for many years.

The black coloured PE supplied by IPS is stabilised against the effects of UV radiation, and it may therefore safely be used outdoors. The stabilisation also counteracts heat fatigue, increasing the operating life.

Polyethylene is ideally suited to a variety of welding techniques for pressure piping applications. High quality, reliable joints can be achieved using heating element socket fusion jointing, heating element butt fusion welding and electrofusion welding techniques. Additionally, PE systems can be joined using flanges, threaded connections and mechanical couplings.

Polyethylene is no longer described by its density (LDPE, MDPE or HDPE), but by its resistance class according to ISO 9080 (PE 63, PE 80 or PE 100). Polyethylene piping systems are available from IPS in metric dimensions according to DIN 8077/8078 and DIN 16962.

General properties of polyethylene (standard types)

In comparison to other thermoplastics, polyethylene exhibits thermal stability up to 60°C (short-term 70° for drainage systems). Polyethylene shows excellent impact strength, with impact strength rising with increasing temperature.

Some important advantages of polyethylene are:

- Low specific weight of 0.95g/cm³
- Favourable transportation methods (can be coiled)
- High long term creep resistance
- Very good chemical resistance
- Weathering resistance
- Radiation resistance
- Outstanding weldability
- Excellent abrasion resistance
- Smooth internal surfaces- low friction loss
- Resistant to freezing



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Materials

The polyethylene pipes and fittings supplied by IPS are manufactured from PE80 or from third generation PE100 material. This latest generation PE100 material (also known as MRS 10) has a higher density and improved mechanical properties. Because of these enhanced properties, PE100 material can achieve a corresponding pressure rating using a reduced wall thickness when compared to previous generations of polyethylene piping.

Some of the improved properties, such as increased stiffness and hardness, also make it ideally suitable for compressed air applications. In addition, PE100 material exhibits excellent resistance to creep pressure and rapid crack propagation.

Special grades of polyethylene can be made with the supplement of additives, modifying the general properties of the material, however, because of these modifications, changes to the mechanical and chemical resistance properties can occur when compared to the original material. When considering a special grade of polyethylene, it is therefore necessary to clarify the suitability of the intended application with our technical department.

Polyethylene pipes and fittings are also available in the following special grades:

PE80-el: (Polyethylene, electro-conductive)

This material develops the electrical conductivity of PE80. It can be used for safety reasons in the transport of combustible material, especially for the conveying of dust. A connection to earth is possible.

PE100 FM Approved

This material has been tested under FM1610 and is approved for underground fire service applications.

Properties of Polyethylene (average values)			
Property	PE80 Value	PE100 Value	Unit
Density	0.94	0.95	g/cm ³
Tensile Strength	20	25	MPa
Elongation at Break	>600	>600	%
Notched Impact Strength at 23°C	12	16	kJ/ m ²
Notched Impact Strength at -30°C	4.5	6	kJ/ m ²
Modulus of Elasticity (Young's Modulus)	950	1100	MPa
Coefficient of Linear Expansion	0.18	0.18	mm/m °C
Maximum Operating Temperature	60	60	°C
Minimum Operating Temperature	-40	-40	°C
Crystalline Melting Temperature	128-131	127-130	°C
Melt Flow Index	0.40 - 0.50	0.30 - 0.55	g/10min
Surface Resistance	>10 ¹³	>10 ¹³	Ω
Thermal Conductivity	0.43	0.40	W/m · K
Flammability	HB	HB	UL94
Colour	Black	Black	

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Chemical resistance

The chemical resistance of polyethylene is considered excellent, due to its non-polar nature. It is resistant to dilute (aqueous) solutions of salts, acids and alkalis and to a large number of organic solvents. Against concentrated hydrochloric acid and hydrofluoric acid polyethylene is resistant, however above certain concentration levels diffusion can occur which does not damage the material but causes secondary damage to surrounding steel constructions. In this type of application, double containment piping systems have been found ideally suited. For further details of the suitability of polyethylene for your application, please consult our chemical resistance tables or our technical department.

Weathering resistance

Piping systems in black polyethylene are UV stabilised, and therefore they do not need to be protected against degradation. To help control the heating effects of UV radiation, the pipe surface may be protected by the application of a UV absorbent coating such as AGRU Coat, or by adding a layer of insulation.

Radioactivity resistance

Polyethylene pipes and fittings are well established for drainage systems applications handling radioactive waste water from laboratories as well as for cooling water piping systems for the nuclear power industry. PE remains unaffected by regular exposure to a radiation dose of up to 10^4 Gray.

Physiological characteristics

Polyethylene piping systems from IPS are physiologically non-toxic (in accordance with ONORM B5014, Part 1, FDA, BGA, and KTW guidelines) making them ideally suited as a piping material in contact with potable water.

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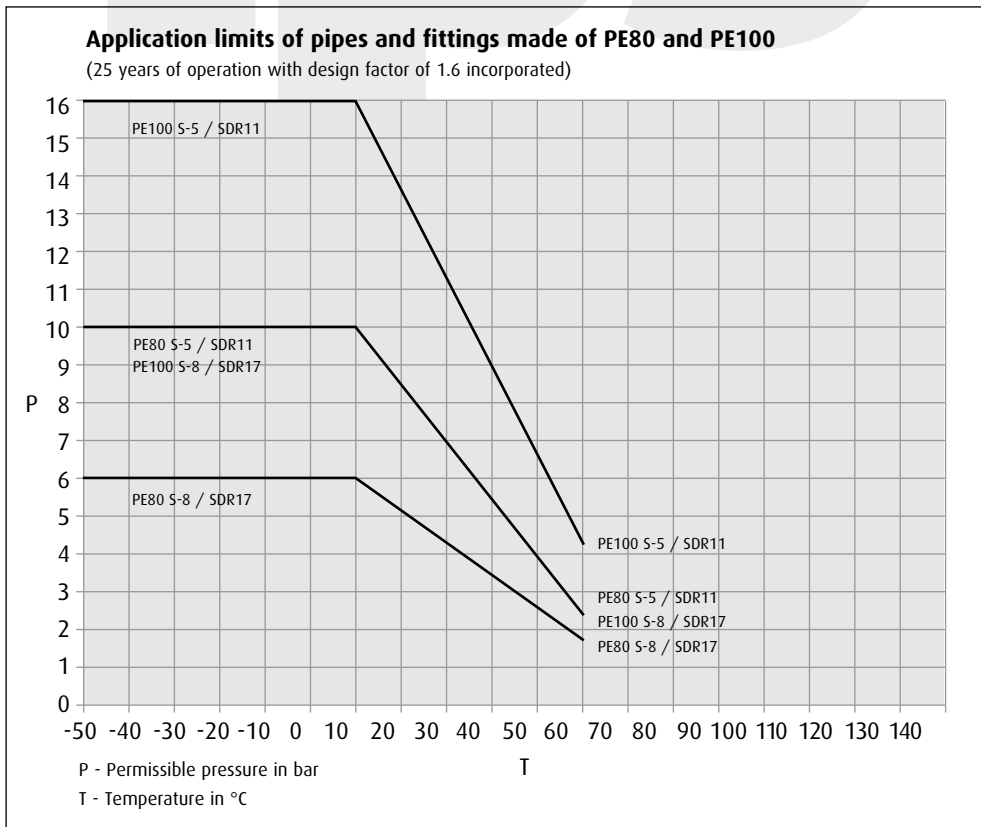
Pressure ratings for polyethylene pipe, fittings and valves

For guidance, the following table gives an indication of the available pressure ratings for polyethylene pipes, fittings and valves *. The pressure rating of individual items should always be verified with our technical department before installation.

Product	Size (O.D.)	Pressure Rating at 20°C
PE80 Pipe S-20 / SDR41	63mm - 1400mm	2.5 bar
PE80 Pipe S-16 / SDR33	50mm - 1400mm	3.2 bar
PE80 Pipe S-12.5 / SDR26	40mm - 630mm	4.0 bar
PE80 Pipe S-8.3 / SDR17.6	20mm - 800mm	6.0 bar
PE80 Pipe S-5 / SDR11	16mm - 630mm	10.0 bar
PE100 Pipe S-8.3 / SDR17.6	40mm - 800mm	10.0 bar
PE100 Pipe S-5 / SDR11	20mm - 630mm	16.0 bar
PE80 Socket Fusion Fittings	20mm - 110mm	10.0 bar
PE80 Butt Fusion Fittings S-8.3 / SDR17.6	63mm - 315mm	6.0 bar
PE80 Butt Fusion Fittings S-5 / SDR11	20mm - 315mm	10.0 bar
PE100 Butt Fusion Fittings S-16 / SDR33	110mm - 500mm	5.0 bar
PE100 Butt Fusion Fittings S-8.3 / SDR17.6	50mm - 500mm	10.0 bar
PE100 Butt Fusion Fittings S-5 / SDR11	20mm - 500mm	16.0 bar
PE100 Electro-Fusion Fittings	20mm - 400mm	10.0 bar
PE100 Ball Valves	32mm - 180mm	10.0 bar

* Note that FM approved PE100 systems are rated for continuous use at 12 bar.

Pressure ratings for thermoplastic pipes are determined in a water environment at a temperature of 20°C. As the temperature of the media (and/or the piping environment) increases, the thermoplastic material becomes more ductile, causing a decrease in the tensile strength. Because of this, the pressure rating of the system must be reduced as the temperature rises to allow for safe operation. The application limits for PE piping is shown in the following diagram:



PE80 Polyethylene pipe availability

Metric Sizes DIN 8074		PE80							PE80-el: Electro Conductive		
Size	Series SDR Working Pressure	Ventilation -	S-20 SDR41 PN2.5	S-16 SDR33 PN3.2	S-12.5 SDR26 PN4	S-8.3 SDR17.6 PN6	S-5 SDR11 PN10	S-3.2 SDR7.4 PN16	S-16 SDR33 PN3.2	S-8.3 SDR17.6 PN6	S-5 SDR11 PN10
10	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)							10 1.8 0.05			
12	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)							12 1.8 0.06			
16	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)						16 1.8 0.08				
20	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)					20 1.8 0.11	20 2.5 0.14				
25	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)					25 1.8 0.14	25 2.7 0.19				
32	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)					32 1.9 0.19	32 2.9 0.27				32 2.9 0.28
40	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)				40 1.8 0.23	40 2.3 0.28	40 3.7 0.43	40 5.5 0.60			40 3.7 0.45
50	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)			50 1.8 0.29	50 2.0 0.31	50 2.9 0.44	50 4.6 0.67	50 6.9 0.94			50 4.6 0.69
63	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		63 1.8 0.36	63 2.0 0.40	63 2.5 0.49	63 3.6 0.69	63 5.8 1.05	63 8.6 1.47			63 5.8 1.10
75	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		75 1.9 0.46	75 2.3 0.54	75 2.9 0.68	75 4.3 0.97	75 6.8 1.47	75 10.3 2.09			75 6.8 1.53
90	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		90 2.2 0.63	90 2.8 0.79	90 3.5 0.98	90 5.1 1.38	90 8.2 2.11	90 12.3 2.99		90 5.1 1.44	90 8.2 2.20
110	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		110 2.7 0.94	110 3.4 1.16	110 4.2 1.42	110 6.3 2.07	110 10.0 3.14	110 15.1 4.48	110 3.4 1.21	110 6.3 2.15	110 10.0 3.28
125	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		125 3.1 1.22	125 3.9 1.51	125 4.8 1.84	125 7.1 2.65	125 11.4 4.06	125 17.1 5.76	125 3.9 1.58	125 7.1 2.77	125 11.4 4.23
140	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		140 3.5 1.54	140 4.3 1.86	140 5.4 2.30	140 8.0 3.34	140 12.7 5.08	140 19.2 7.24			
160	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		160 4.0 2.00	160 4.9 2.42	160 6.2 3.02	160 9.1 4.33	160 14.6 6.67	160 21.9 9.44	160 4.9 2.53	160 9.1 4.51	160 14.6 6.95
180	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		180 4.4 2.46	180 5.5 3.07	180 6.9 3.79	180 10.2 5.45	180 16.4 8.40	180 24.6 11.90	180 5.5 3.19	180 10.2 5.68	180 16.4 8.75
200	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		200 4.9 3.05	200 6.2 3.81	200 7.7 4.69	200 11.4 6.76	200 18.2 10.40	200 27.4 14.70	200 6.2 3.97	200 11.4 7.04	200 18.2 10.80
225	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		225 5.5 3.86	225 6.9 4.77	225 8.6 5.89	225 12.8 8.55	225 20.5 13.10	225 30.8 18.60	225 6.9 4.99	225 12.8 8.91	225 20.5 13.70
250	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		250 6.2 4.79	250 7.7 5.92	250 9.6 7.30	250 14.2 10.50	250 22.7 16.20	250 34.2 23.00	250 7.7 6.17	250 14.2 11.00	250 22.7 16.80
280	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		280 6.9 5.98	280 8.6 7.40	280 10.7 9.10	280 15.9 13.20	280 25.4 20.20	280 38.3 28.80			
315	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		315 7.7 7.51	315 9.7 9.37	315 12.1 11.50	315 17.9 16.70	315 28.6 25.60	315 43.1 36.50	315 9.7 9.76	315 17.9 17.40	315 28.6 26.70
355	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)		355 8.7 9.55	355 10.9 11.80	355 13.6 14.60	355 20.1 21.10	355 32.2 32.50	355 48.5 46.30			
400	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	400 8.0 9.93	400 9.8 12.10	400 12.3 15.00	400 15.3 18.50	400 22.7 26.90	400 36.3 41.20	400 54.7 58.80	400 12.3 15.60		
450	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	450 8.0 11.20	450 11.0 15.20	450 13.8 19.00	450 17.2 23.40	450 25.5 34.00	450 40.9 52.30				
500	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	500 8.0 12.50	500 12.3 18.90	500 15.3 23.30	500 19.1 28.90	500 28.3 41.80	500 45.4 64.50				
560	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	560 10.0 17.40	560 13.7 23.60	560 17.2 29.40	560 21.4 36.20	560 31.7 52.50	560 50.8 80.80				
630	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	630 10.0 19.60	630 15.4 29.80	630 19.3 37.00	630 24.1 44.80	630 35.7 66.50	630 57.2 102.00				
710	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	710 12.0 26.40	710 17.4 37.90	710 21.8 47.20	710 27.2 58.30	710 40.2 84.00					
800	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	800 12.0 29.80	800 19.6 48.10	800 24.5 59.70	800 30.6 73.90	800 45.3 107.00					
900	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	900 15.0 41.80	900 22.0 60.70	900 27.6 75.60	900 34.4 93.30						
1000	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	1000 15.0 46.60	1000 24.5 75.20	1000 30.6 93.10	1000 38.2 115.00						
1200	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	1200 18.0 67.00	1200 29.4 108.00	1200 36.7 134.00	1200 45.9 166.00						
1400	O.D. (mm) Wall (mm) Weight/m (kg)	1400 20.0 86.80	1400 34.3 147.00	1400 42.9 183.00							

PE100 Polyethylene pipe availability



Metric Sizes DIN 8074		PE100		PE100 FM Approved
Size	Series SDR Working Pressure	S-8 SDR17 PN10	S-5 SDR11 PN16	S-5 SDR11 PN12
20	O.D. (mm)		20	
	Wall (mm)		2.0	
	Weight/m (kg)		0.12	
25	O.D. (mm)		25	
	Wall (mm)		2.3	
	Weight/m (kg)		0.17	
32	O.D. (mm)		32	
	Wall (mm)		2.9	
	Weight/m (kg)		0.27	
40	O.D. (mm)	40	40	
	Wall (mm)	2.4	3.7	
	Weight/m (kg)	0.29	0.43	
50	O.D. (mm)	50	50	
	Wall (mm)	3.0	4.6	
	Weight/m (kg)	0.46	0.67	
63	O.D. (mm)	63	63	63
	Wall (mm)	3.8	5.8	5.8
	Weight/m (kg)	0.72	1.05	1.05
75	O.D. (mm)	75	75	75
	Wall (mm)	4.5	6.8	6.8
	Weight/m (kg)	1.01	1.47	1.47
90	O.D. (mm)	90	90	90
	Wall (mm)	5.4	8.2	8.2
	Weight/m (kg)	1.46	2.11	2.11
110	O.D. (mm)	110	110	110
	Wall (mm)	6.6	10.0	10.0
	Weight/m (kg)	2.15	3.14	3.14
125	O.D. (mm)	125	125	125
	Wall (mm)	7.4	11.4	11.4
	Weight/m (kg)	2.76	4.06	4.06
140	O.D. (mm)	140	140	140
	Wall (mm)	8.3	12.7	12.7
	Weight/m (kg)	3.45	5.08	5.08
160	O.D. (mm)	160	160	160
	Wall (mm)	9.5	14.6	14.6
	Weight/m (kg)	4.52	6.67	6.67
180	O.D. (mm)	180	180	180
	Wall (mm)	10.7	16.4	16.4
	Weight/m (kg)	5.69	8.40	8.40
200	O.D. (mm)	200	200	200
	Wall (mm)	11.9	18.2	18.2
	Weight/m (kg)	7.05	10.40	10.40
225	O.D. (mm)	225	225	225
	Wall (mm)	13.4	20.5	20.5
	Weight/m (kg)	8.93	13.10	13.10
250	O.D. (mm)	250	250	250
	Wall (mm)	14.8	22.7	22.7
	Weight/m (kg)	10.90	16.20	16.20
280	O.D. (mm)	280	280	280
	Wall (mm)	16.6	25.4	25.4
	Weight/m (kg)	13.70	20.20	20.20
315	O.D. (mm)	315	315	315
	Wall (mm)	18.7	28.6	28.6
	Weight/m (kg)	17.40	25.60	25.60
355	O.D. (mm)	355	355	355
	Wall (mm)	21.1	32.2	32.2
	Weight/m (kg)	22.10	32.50	32.50
400	O.D. (mm)	400	400	400
	Wall (mm)	23.7	36.3	36.3
	Weight/m (kg)	28.00	41.20	41.20
450	O.D. (mm)	450	450	
	Wall (mm)	26.7	40.9	
	Weight/m (kg)	35.40	52.30	
500	O.D. (mm)	500	500	
	Wall (mm)	29.7	45.4	
	Weight/m (kg)	43.80	64.50	
560	O.D. (mm)	560	560	
	Wall (mm)	33.2	50.8	
	Weight/m (kg)	54.80	80.80	
630	O.D. (mm)	630	630	
	Wall (mm)	37.4	57.2	
	Weight/m (kg)	69.40	102.00	
710	O.D. (mm)	710		
	Wall (mm)	42.1		
	Weight/m (kg)	88.10		
800	O.D. (mm)	800		
	Wall (mm)	47.4		
	Weight/m (kg)	112.00		