

# Frequently Ask Questions

## What is WaterPex?

The WaterPex piping system is available in 3 differing structures. These include:

### 1. Single Layer Pex-b

The Pex-b piping system is our most popular pex system for water. The system is suitable for potable, hot and cold, recycled, rain and general purpose water systems. It is available in sizing up to 32mm.

The inner layer of the pipe is constructed from Pex-b material. Bonded to the pipe is an outer coloured layer that provides the product with increased UV resistance.

This piping system is available in a range of colours to make installation quick and easy and comply with National regulations.

### 2. Single Layer Pex-a

The Pex-a piping system is available for those who prefer a PN20 pipe with a sleeve fitting jointing system. This system is also suitable for potable, hot and cold, recycled, rain and general purpose water systems. It is available in sizing up to 32mm.

The inner layer of the pipe is constructed from Pex-a material. Bonded to the pipe is an outer coloured layer that provides the product with increased UV resistance.

This piping system is available in a range of colours to make installation quick and easy and comply with National regulations.

### 3. Pex/Al/Pex.

This is a five layered macro-composite construction and is the latest innovation for low pressure gas and water applications. The cross-linking carried out during the manufacturing process essentially links the molecular strands of the polyethylene forming a three dimensional structure. The cross linking creates a material that performs extremely well at high temperatures and pressures, making it perfect for plumbing and heating applications.

WaterPex Pex-Al-Pex pipe combines the benefits of both metal and plastic pipes. The inline welded aluminium tube is absolutely safe against oxygen penetration. It compensates for the snapback forces and the linear expansion caused by temperature changes.

The basis of the system is simple, safe and fast pipe installation: simply bend by hand, cut to length, ream and bevel, join together, screw or press, done.

This structure provides the pipe with the advantages of metal and plastic while avoiding their weaknesses, and brings the following benefits to plumbing – it is lower in cost when compared to conventional copper systems it is lightweight, bendable and does not need to be welded installation times are significantly reduced, saving labour costs the product is hygienic, non-toxic and smooth It is available in sizing from 16mm up to 50mm.

All WaterPex systems have been independently tested and certified to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the relevant Australian Standards including AS4176, ATS 5200.478, AS2537, AS2492 and AS4020. In addition the manufacturing facilities are independently certified to ISO 9001.

## What tools do I need for the WaterPex Piping System?

WaterPex piping system has a number of jointing options that include:

> **F5 u profile fittings that are available in sizes from 16 through to 63mm**

> **Double leak detection fittings that are designed to fail on testing if they have been installed incorrectly. These are available in sizes from 16 to 25mm**

> **Compression sleeve fittings for pex-a piping only**

Tools used for F5 and Double Leak detection fittings are common between both systems and include manual and battery option.

Tools for the compression sleeve system include manual and battery options for expanders and jointing

The range of WaterPex tooling also includes reamers cutting tools and internal and external bending springs.

## How long does WaterPex last?

Ageing tests carried out within the laboratory calculate pipe life at more than 50 years.

## What warranty is available with WaterPex installation?

Providing the installation is carried out as per the instructions in the Installation Manual, a 25-year installation warranty applies.

## Can the WaterPex piping system be used for the carriage of hot & cold potable water?

Yes, WaterPex complies with AS4176, ATS 5200.478, AS2537, AS2492 and most importantly AS4020. AS4020 is the Australian Standard that specifies the requirements for Products for Use in Contact with Drinking Water. WaterPex solves many problems associated with metal and other types of plastic pipes. It will not erode, corrode, scale or contaminate water.

## Are WaterPex fittings interchangeable with gas & water installations?

Yes, WaterPex F5 and Leak detection fittings are approved for hot & cold water, natural gas, LPG and compressed air applications. One DR brass crimped fitting for all applications, just think of the advantages!

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## Can you use WaterPex with other similar systems?

DEFINITELY NOT. Under no circumstances can WaterPex pipe or fittings be crimped to other similar systems.

## Can I use WaterPex above ground and exposed to sunlight?

WaterPex can be used above ground but must be protected against UV degradation. The Couta Group has a range of UV resistant conduits that are to be used for protection of pipe above ground.

## Does the pipe expand once under pressure?

Testing and commissioning of the WaterPex system should be performed in accordance with AS3500 parts 4 and 5 as detailed in the WaterPex product training sessions. The pipe will marginally expand under pressure. It has a modulus of elasticity of 700MPa and a coefficient of thermal expansion of 0.20 mm/mK.

## Is there a need to support a bend in the WaterPex pipe?

Bend supports are necessary for WaterPex Pex-b piping systems but not for Pex/Al/Pex. Once the bend in a Water Pex Pex/Al/Pex system has been made it will stay in place unsupported.

## Can I fit the WaterPex system to an existing copper installation?

Yes, WaterPex to copper brazing tail, copper flared connectors and copper crimp adaptors have been manufactured in 16mm through to 32mm sizes. Simply cut the copper pipe-place the flared nut onto the pipe-flare the pipe then tighten the flared nut to the fitting body. Copper crimp fittings are easily installed with appropriate tooling.

## How long has the WaterPex system been in use?

The WaterPex system has been in Australia since 2008 and composite pipe has been used extensively in Europe and Asia for more than 30 years.

## Can WaterPex pipes be chased in masonry floor/walls?

Yes, in general WaterPex piping can be chased in masonry floors and walls with no further protection of the pipe needed but refer to your local authority requirements as these differ around Australia

## Do I need to use grommets when running WaterPex piping through metal studded walls?

The use of grommets is not required as the outer layer of WaterPex acts as an insulator in itself. There are saddling clips available that sit in the hole of the metal frame which allows the pipe to pass through them.

## Can anyone install WaterPex?

Installation of WaterPex can only be carried out by a licensed Plumber. Contact your licensed Plumber and ask him to install WaterPex for you.

## What is the price of WaterPex?

For details contact your preferred Merchant for the best priced value for money gas and water product on the market.

## Where can I buy WaterPex?

Contact your preferred Merchant or call our Head Office on:

**Toll free: 1300 761 916**

**Email: [sales@coutagroup.com.au](mailto:sales@coutagroup.com.au)**

**Website: [www.coutagroup.com.au](http://www.coutagroup.com.au)**