

# Frequently Ask Questions



## What is GasPex?

GasPex is a multi layered, composite (PE-X/AL/PEX), cross-linked polyethylene piping system suitable for the carriage of natural gas, LPG, and compressed air systems.

The cross-linking carried out during the manufacturing process 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. The GasPex Piping System has gained popular acceptance amongst plumbers and gasfitters throughout Australasia due to it being a quality system that is fast, safe and easy to use and a valid replacement for copper. It also addresses many workplace health & safety issues not easily attainable when using other piping systems.

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

GasPex piping system has one type of crimp fitting for all applications therefore one type of hand crimping tool is available with four different crimping heads 16, 20, 25 & 32mm. Battery and electric tools are also available for use with 40, 50 & 63mm pipe. A hand reamer/gauging tool is available and must be used after the cutting of the pipe. Internal bending springs in all sizes are also available.

## How long does GasPex last?

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

## What warranty is available with GasPex installation?

All installers must be trained and certified by The Cousta Group in the correct installation of the GasPex system. Systems that have been installed as per the GasPex Installation Manual are covered by \$20,000,000 insurance policy and are warranted for 25 years from date of installation. Full detail is available at [www.gaspex.com.au](http://www.gaspex.com.au)

## Can I use other tabling charts for pipe sizing when using GasPex for gas connections?

No. GasPex gas sizing tables are included in the GasPex Installation manual and these are specific to the GasPex system.

The reason for the difference in sizing between GasPex and copper is in the fact that the GasPex fittings are internal as opposed to external for copper. However GasPex has a lower co-efficient of friction than copper with improved lamina gas flow and no boundary effect, meaning apart from the fitting restrictions, the GasPex pipe when tested was found to be far superior to copper with no measurable pressure drop over 50 metres.

## Is the GasPex system included in AS 5601 Gas Installations?

Yes. As GasPex is compliant with and certified to AS 4176.8.

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

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

## Can you use GasPex with other similar systems?

NO, under no circumstances can GasPex pipe or fittings be crimped to other similar systems.

The following is an extract from Regulation Roundup Bulletin, issue 17 April,2006. Office of the Technical Regulator S.A extensions to composite pipe systems.

"If you decide to use a particular composite system for gas installations you are strongly encouraged to provide a BSP threaded fitting, in an accessible location to allow for any future extensions by another gasfitter. In this way you provide a safe means whereby an extension to the gas supply, using an alternative composite system, steel or copper can be done. Remember it may be you looking for this fitting."

## What is the temperature and pressure rating for the GasPex system?

For gas applications – a maximum pressure of 70kpa is allowed. The maximum operating temperature is 80°C.

For gas installations above 70kpa a written request can be made to the particular State Regulator for consideration. They may then issue an exemption notice for the request.

## Can I use GasPex above ground?

GasPex can be installed above ground and outdoors but must be protected against UV degradation. The Cousta Group has a range of UV resistant conduits that are to be used for protection of pipe above ground. Where GasPex piping has been installed above ground but indoors and is not exposed to UV rays from direct sunlight, care must also be taken that the pipe is not affected by UV light from fluorescent, LED or similar light sources. It is known that the emission of UV light from fluorescent, LED and similar light sources decreases rapidly with distance. At a distance of 250mm from the light source, the level of UV is sufficiently diminished that it is non harmful and does not degrade the GasPex system. Where GasPex is installed at a distance greater than 250mm from any fluorescent, LED or similar light source, our standard 25 year warranty applies.

## What is the minimum distance between pipe fixings?

16mm pipe size-fixings to be not more than 1.00 metres apart;  
20mm pipe size-fixings to be not more than 1.25 metres apart;  
25mm pipe size-fixings to be not more than 1.50 metres apart;  
32mm pipe size and above-fixings to be not more than 2.00 metres apart.

GasPex will not sag between fixings and always look neat and tidy. GasPex does not manufacture fixings for the GasPex system as all existing fixings will suit the GasPex pipe.

# Frequently Ask Questions

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

Bend supports are necessary with other systems but not for GasPex, PEX/AL/PEX piping. Once the bend has been made it will remain in place unsupported.

## Can I bend GasPex manually without the aid of a pipe-bender?

Yes, GasPex pipe is very flexible and in the smaller diameter pipe bending can be done by hand. However, when bending large diameter pipe or when a smaller radius is required, the use of bending springs is recommended. The minimum bending radius is 5 x nominal outer diameter of the pipe.

## Can I fit/bend the GasPex system to an existing copper installation?

Yes, GasPex copper brazing tails to copper flared connectors have been manufactured in sizes from 16mm through to 50mm. Simply cut the copper pipe-place the flared nut onto the pipe-flare the pipe then tighten the flared nut to the fitting body.

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

The GasPex system has been in Australia since 2006 and composite pipe has been used extensively in Europe and Asia for more than 30 years.

## Can GasPex be used for the final connection to an appliance in a gas installation?

Not at this stage. In AS 5601 Gas Installations, the document clearly states that composite pipe is not permitted for use in a final connection to an appliance. Typically you would run GasPex to a gas cock for a cooker or heater and make your final connection using an approved connector. When connecting instantaneous hot water heaters, GasPex can be installed to the gas cock then a union to the heater-the union is the final connection in this case.

## After cutting GasPex pipe is it necessary to use the reamer/gauging tool every time?

Yes, it is necessary to ream the pipe to bevel the inner lip and remove the burred edge after the cutting of the pipe. This will assist in the assembly of the joint and avoid potential damage or dislodgement of the O-rings. The use of the reamer/gauging tool will comply with the warranty requirements.

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

Yes, GasPex piping can be chased in masonry floors, walls with no further protection of the pipe necessary.

## Can GasPex gas pipes be buried in concrete?

Yes, without joints with the pressure not to exceed 7kpa and the pipe to be placed between the top and bottom layers of reinforcement. Refer to AS 5601. GasPex is also available in a pre-conducted form for laying in concrete.

## Can GasPex be installed beneath a building in the ground for gas installation?

Yes it can but there cannot be any joints. Don't forget GasPex is available in 25 – 100m coils.

## Can GasPex gas pipe be installed in concealed locations such as duct voids etc?

Yes it can, with joints kept to a minimum as per table 5.2 on page 66 in AS 5601.1:2013. Our crimped brass joints are classed as permanent joints as defined in AS 5601 1.8.82.

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

The use of grommets is not required as the outer layer of GasPex 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.

## Why would I use GasPex rather than some other product?

- > GasPex is the latest system available
- > It is cheaper than copper
- > There is no brazing, no expensive oxy acetylene equipment
- > Light and easy to handle
- > Quick and easy to install
- > One DR crimped brass fitting for all applications
- > Color coded pipe for quick identification – yellow pipe for gas
- > Best priced value for money product on the market

## Can anyone install GasPex?

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

## Do I need to identify the gas system installed?

Yes you must identify the brand of gas piping installed by attaching an identification tag adjacent to the gas meter or the LP gas cylinder.

## What is the price of GasPex?

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

## Where can I buy GasPex?

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)**