

Aquatherm pipings systems have an impressive history, with over 35 years of exemplary performance and satisfactory installation in over 70 countries. The piping systems are manufactured to the highest standards of quality and are backed by one of the most comprehensive warranties in the industry. However, Aquatherm piping systems are still relatively new to North America and there are still many developers, code officials, engineers, and contractors who are unfamiliar with the many approved applications of polypropylene and heat fusion.

When installing an Aquatherm piping system into a new area, it is important to make sure that all the necessary parties are informed of the decision to use PP-R pipe. If the proper steps are not taken, it can cause unnecessary delays to the project. The following is a list of steps that need to be taken before any installation can begin.

- 1. The submittals need to be sent in to the engineer, architect, or building owner, depending on who is making the final decision about which piping system to use.** Once properly informed about Aquatherm piping systems and their many advantages, most developers and designers are quick to embrace them.
- 2. The engineer on the project needs to approve the change to Aquatherm from whatever product would have been used otherwise.** There are a variety of engineering decisions that need to be made when using Aquatherm pipe, including pipe sizing, hanger spacing, service temperature and pressure, and many others. All Aquatherm piping systems need to be specifically designed for the project by the engineer on the project.
- 3. The general contractor and the fire-stopping subcontractor need to be fully aware of the switch to PP-R pipe.** PP-R piping requires different fire-rating considerations than metal pipe or other plastics, and it's important to make sure that the general contractor and the fire-stopping subcontractor are informed.
- 4. Both the plumbing and building code inspectors need to have signed off on the pipe.** Jim Pascal is North American Director of Codes and Approvals and will be able to help you makes sure that all the proper authorities have signed off on the pipe. Contact him at jim@pascalengineering.com
- 5. A chemical compatibility inquiry form needs to be submitted, and a response received, for any applications other than water.** PP-R is resistant to most chemicals, but it is important to be sure that the pipe is suited for the particular application. The chemical inquiry form can be found online and in chapter one of the Aquatherm Catalog.
- 6. The mechanical contractor and his crew need to be trained by an Aquatherm trainer.** Trained contractors will have certificates issued by Aquatherm to verify that they have been trained. Proper training helps prevent simple mistakes on the jobsite. It's important to make sure that the contractor also:
 - Knows about fire stopping
 - Knows about plenum ratings
 - Is clear on which pipes need to be insulated to meet codes
- 7. Enough tools need to be ordered to complete the job in the estimated time.** Not having enough tools for all of the installers can waste time and reduce productivity. Where possible, have backup tool available in case a tool gets damaged or misplaced.
- 8. Pipe needs to be ordered with plenty of lead time.** It can take 1-5 days to get domestically stocked product shipped to a jobsite. It can 4-8 weeks to large quantities of pipe and special order parts to be shipped from Germany. Delivery times and pipe availability will vary based on local wholesalers.
- 9. Ensure that the pressure test is complete and submitted to Aquatherm.** If properly installed, Aquatherm pipes and fittings won't leak or fail. The pressure test is used to confirm that the connections were all done properly. The warranty is only valid if the pressure test is completed and submitted to Aquatherm by a trained installer.