

Installation equipment

Tools

Although it is possible to install some plastic piping systems with simple tools that are found in most tool kits, there is also an extensive range of high quality tools and equipment that is specifically designed for use with plastic piping. Using specialist tools can improve reliability and in many cases reduce the time taken to make a joint.

Some examples of tools for plastic piping include:

- rotary pipe cutters with cutting wheels for different plastic materials
- ratchet operated pipe cutters for quick cutting
- saws and vices
- pipe stands, rollers and jacks
- pipe pulling tools
- strap wrenches
- daubers and applicators for solvent cement
- peeling tools for socket and electro fusion welding



As with all practical jobs, using the correct tools will make the installation of plastic piping easier and will considerably reduce the possibility of leaking joints due to poor workmanship.

Fusion welding equipment

Specialist fusion welding equipment is usually available for hire as well as for purchase. Users should ensure that fusion welding equipment is regularly serviced and calibrated by factory trained technicians. This guarantees reliability and reduces the down-time caused by faulty equipment.

The range of fusion welding equipment includes:

- hot gas welding tools for plastics fabrication
- hand held socket fusion welding tools
- workshop combined socket and butt fusion welding machines
- workshop or site butt fusion welding machines
- electro fusion welding machines
- bead free welding machines for ultra-pure piping
- infra-red (IR) non contact butt welding machines



Butt fusion, electro fusion and IR fusion welding machines are available with full or part CNC controls, providing higher standards of repeatability over manually operated equipment. In most cases this equipment also enables the storage of weld records so that complete traceability is possible.

The fusion welding of plastic piping is a skilled operation that should not be undertaken by untrained personnel. Training should be available from the equipment supplier. In addition, The Welding Institute operate a certification scheme for plastics welders "CSWIP" that is recognized throughout the industry.