

Water
and
Pipes.

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Forward

WHY WRITE A WHOLE BOOK ABOUT PLASTIC PIPES? In the past few years, plastic tubing has gained ever-increasing acceptance in home water-supply and surface-heating systems. This is true not only of Europe but generally of all western industrial countries.

This technical development has, to be sure, not been completely free of misunderstandings and setbacks.

It should be said at the outset that it is not at all easy to arrive at a clear definition of what plastics are. Not even any of the particular types nor any individual kind of plastic can be defined exactly insofar as its characteristics are concerned. The variations that are caused by the different manufacturing methods and the technical background and knowledge of the manufacturer are just too great to make this an easy task. Although these characteristics are beyond what can be predetermined by mathematical and theoretical means, they can still be ascertained by means of testing and experimentation. But some manufacturers are tempted to substitute results that are not based upon tests conducted for the required amount of time. This, of course, makes it impossible to arrive at an objective conclusion.

In spite of these facts, it is still true that we have an adequate amount of knowledge about the types of plastics that are being used for home piping systems. This knowledge, which has up to now been the preserve of experts in the field, is beginning to become more widely disseminated.

That development is to be greeted wholeheartedly. Even more than that, it is an unavoidable necessity if plastics and all the different types of tubing with all their advantages are to really come into their own. Saying this does not in any way imply that every contractor, architect, dealer, installer and everyone who has anything to do with pipes that are made of this new material has to be retrained as a plastics chemist. But in our opinion, it is indispensable for everyone who uses plastic tubing to gain a minimum amount of knowledge so that each one can form his own opinion concerning it and the descriptions that accompany it.

That is enough reason for WIRSBO BRUKS AB to publish this handbook.

This book covers a broad spectrum all the way from the source of the materials used for manufacturing plastic tubing to the actual use of the finished pipes. It affords insights into the world of the researcher and tester. It should, stated simply, awaken a new understanding of just what kind of product plastic tubing really is.

The authors have also written this book in the hope that it will serve as an impetus for increased care and objectivity in the presentation of test results. This is needed because without reliable documentation, no dependable judgements can be made concerning any tubing that is being evaluated.

The final goal is a reliable system that has a long life expectancy. It is our expressed hope that we will be able to contribute toward this goal through the publication of this book.

Yours sincerely,
WIRSBO BRUKS AB
Founded in 1620





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