

Plumbers Notification

The following information will summarize the changes when installing HDPE.

1. Identification:

HDPE is black in color and will have an ASTM designation of PE-3408/3608. The sizes and wall thicknesses to be used are:

HDPE Pipe Size and SDR	
½” CTS (5/8” OD) x 0.090” Wall	3” IPS x SDR-11
1” CTS (1-1/8” OD) x 0.101” Wall	4” IPS x SDR-11
1-1/4” IPS x SDR-11	6” IPS x SDR-11
2” IPS x SDR-11	8” IPS x SDR-11

In addition, fittings molded with ASTM PE-4710 plastic can be used with PE-3408/3608 ONLY if the two are mechanically connected by acceptable means or are electrofused.

It is very important that the fittings' SDR matches the pipe being installed. For instance, stab fittings are normally black; however, they are available in different SDR sizes, which are listed by the Gas Company for yellow MDPE and for black HDPE. For example, the Gas Company specifies 1-1/4” IPS in SDR10 for MDPE, and 1-1/4” IPS in SDR11 for HDPE.

2. Pressure Testing:

HDPE installations will need to be installed to withstand a pressure test of 150 PSIG.

3. Standards

- a. The ***Standards for Customer’s Service Lines, Regulators and Meters -Plumber’s Guide*** (Columbia Gas Form C-2235) has been updated to include HDPE, and allow it to be operated at a maximum pressure of 99 psig.
- b. The ***Materials for Customer Service Lines*** (Form C-2248) has been updated to include HDPE pipe, fittings, valves, etc., and allow the material to be operated at a maximum of 99 psig.
- c. Both of the above forms (C-2235 and C-2248) are available in .pdf format on the following web sites: www.columbiagasohio.com or www.columbiagaspm.com

4. Gas Company Communication

For new service applications designed for HDPE, communication between the Gas Company (New Business, Engineering, Construction Services, and Field Operations) and Builders/Developers/Plumbers will be critical to ensure MDPE is not installed.

NOTE: If the Gas Company service line is black HDPE, the customer service line must be black HDPE regardless of the system's operating pressure. The gas company will inform the plumber what material to install.

5. Tools:

- a. Squeeze-off tools must be checked to ensure they are manufactured to handle the SDR of the Gas Company approved HDPE pipe.
- b. Manual heat fusion and electrofusion equipment approved by the Gas Company will not require any changes to fuse HDPE.

NOTE: Dissimilar materials must be either electrofused or joined mechanically. Socket- or butt-fusions can only be the same color – yellow to yellow or black to black.

6. Operator Qualification

The plumber must check his or her fusion qualifications to ensure the installation of HDPE is covered.