

General Principles

PE is relatively light and easy to handle although it is prone to damage through scoring by sharp objects. Therefore careful handling is always required and the dragging of straight pipe and coils should be avoided whenever possible.

The recommendations for handling and storage are the same for both PE 80 and PE 100 pipes although, due to increased stiffness, PE 100 pipes may require even greater care in handling pipe coils than PE 80 pipes of similar wall thickness.

For transporting bulk loads the vehicles should be provided with a clean flat bed, free from nails or other projections which may cause damage.

When lifting by crane, non metallic wide band slings or ropes should be used, and for pipe lengths greater than 6m, load spreading beams of a length at least equivalent to one quarter of the length of the pipe or bundlepack should be employed. Chains or end hooks should not be used.

As far as practicable the protective packaging (pallets, strapping, bags etc.) should be kept intact until the material is required for use.

Pipes and fittings likely to be stored outside for periods longer than 12 months, should be covered by tarpaulin or black polythene sheeting to prevent ultra violet degradation from sunlight.

All pipe store locations should be on suitably firm, level ground, free from damaging material with adequate access for construction vehicles and/or lifting equipment.

