

Description

Wales & West Utilities preferred option is to lay gas mains and service pipes in open trenches. However, it is accepted that in order for the developer to construct paths and roads, a pre-laid duct be installed to allow the polyethylene pipe to be inserted at a later date. This information sheet gives guidance on the specifications for the duct. However, it is recommended that you contact Wales & West Utilities at the design stage of the project to evaluate if ducting is appropriate for your site, the route that the pipe work is going to take and to confirm the size required.

Please note that Wales & West Utilities does not supply ducting. The procurement and cost of the ducting is borne by the developer.

Table 1: Ducting Dimensions

This table shows the minimum ducting size required to allow safe insertion of pipes up to 90mm in diameter:

Pipe Size	Minimum Ducting Size (Internal Diameter)
<= 32mm	60mm
<=40mm	100mm
<=63mm	150mm
<=90mm	200mm

Table 2: Minimum Depths of cover

This table shows the minimum depth of cover that must be provided over the duct in various surface categories. Please contact us where this depth cannot be achieved:

Pipe	Location	Minimum Depth of Cover
Service	Private	375mm
	Public footpath	450mm
	Public road	450mm
Main	Footway / drive	600mm
	Road /verge	750mm
	Fields	1100mm

Installation Guidance Notes

The gas ducting **must** be yellow and perforated. This allows the pipe work to be identified as gas and for the gas to vent safely in the event of a leak.

Gas ducting must be to British Standard BS4962 "Specification for plastic pipes and fittings for use as sub soil field drains".

For ease of insertion, the internal diameter of the duct should be sufficient to allow insertion of the PE pipe without damage (see Table 1 above). For pipe diameters above 90mm, advice shall always be sought from Wales & West Utilities prior to installation.

Ducting must be laid at a depth appropriate to the final surface category and level of the site (see Table 2 above).

Gas marker tape must be laid a minimum of 75mm above the duct to avoid interference damage.

Ducts must be used solely for insertion of the gas pipe.

Ducting must be laid in a straight line with services running perpendicular to the mains pipe.

Ducts must terminate a minimum of 1m from the service entry point to allow for assembly and installation of the service entry fittings. An open excavation must be left at this point

Similarly, the duct should terminate at a position which allows insertion of the service pipe and assembly of the mains connection fittings (again, an open excavation is required).

Pits must be left open at intervals of not longer than 20m to assist the insertion of the PE pipe. Additional pits must be left open at any bends in the service pipe.

A drawstring must be inserted in the duct to aid the insertion of the PE pipe.

Care must be taken to ensure the duct is not kinked, obstructed, or crushed when backfilled. It is recommended that imported fine fill is used up to 100mm above the duct.

If the duct is found to be blocked or unsuitable for use, Wales & West Utilities will leave site and abortive visit costs may be charged. Wales & West Utilities will not insert pipes into any other ducts.

For further advice, please contact Wales and West Utilities on 02920 278 901, and a Customer Service Advisor will be happy to assist you.

Typical example of a domestic service

