

Modular Piping Systems

Traditionally industry has used black iron or galvanized piping for compressed air applications.

It is no longer affordable to run pipe like our fathers and grandfathers did using a pipe machine and a lot of labor. Labor costs continue to be the driving force in pricing pipe installations.

PVC pipe has been restricted from use in compressed air systems due to the incompatibility of synthetic lubricant with the pipe material. It has a history of rupturing and sending pieces across the room.

Today there are many options available offering more flexibility and convenience. The leader in this new technology is the extruded aluminum piping system with quick connecting fittings. The speed of installation more than offsets its initial material costs.

Advantages of extruded aluminum include the following:

1. Energy Efficient, Smooth bore, non corrosive, high flow for size.
2. Light weight – easily installed
3. Few tools required for installation. A pipe/tubing cutter and deburring tool.
4. Simple modification to add drops and branch lines off the header.
5. System rated to 120 PSI @ 170°F/ 188 PSI @ 122°F.
6. Pipe sizes include ½", ¾", 1", 1 ¼", 1 ½", 2", 2 ½".

The modular pipe is supported using similar supports such as pipe hangers, all thread rod and/or clevis hangers.

A 20' section of 1 ½" modular pipe weighs 7.5 lbs. Compare that to schedule 40 black iron pipe weighing in at 55 lbs. It is easy to see why it is faster to install a modular system. A two man crew can install a small system in one day.

Modular piping also allows for quick installation of additional drops or branch lines with a minimum of disruption to the system. Should you be planning to relocate to another facility in the future, the modular system can be disassembled quickly and setup in another location.

I & M Industrials can assist you with sizing, layout and construction.

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