Putting the Collar on Fires with FireShield Fire Collars

FireShield Fire Collars from Fireball International are a new range of Fire Collars that are totally compliant to Australian Standards.

Fire collars play a fundamental role in preventing the spread of fire from one compartment to another and by law must be installed on plastic or PVC pipes where they penetrate fire-rated walls, concrete slabs and ceilings.

The FireShield range includes mechanically assisted fire collars that feature an ingenious design to totally seal the penetration within seconds of a fire being detected.
How FireShield Collars Work
The design of the FireShield collars allows air up to 70°C to pass through the pipe without obstruction. However in the event of a fire, the rising air temperature above this level automatically triggers the collar’s closing mechanism.
As plastic and PVC pipe deforms at these high temperatures, the fusible links of the FireShield collar melt and release two springs, which completely close the pipe within seconds and prevent fire and smoke from spreading.

Applications
The FireShield product range features patented products approved for use on a variety of plastic pipes such as PVC and Geberit HDPE.
These collars are designed for a wide range of applications and can be cast in a concrete slab or used in retro fit situations on slabs, masonry walls or framed plasterboard-sheeted walls.

Installation
Ease of installation is one of the major benefits of the FireShield range. During installation, the pipe can be passed directly through the collar without the need for cutting or joining. In addition, on a retrofit job the collar can be fitted directly over the existing pipe.

Diameters
These collars have the added advantage that the one collar may be used for a varying number of pipe sizes. FireShield is available for pipes with a diameter of 40 or 50 mm (FSC50A and FSC50B) and with a diameter of 65, 80, 90 or 100 mm (FSC100A and FSC100B). Larger sizes are expected soon.

The Importance of Compliance
Installing fire collars compliant to Australian Standards is imperative. In the event of a fire and the loss of property and/or death, any person who has certified or installed collars not fully compliant could be liable for the loss of property or in the event of a death could face criminal charges.
Therefore before installing and certifying any fire collars in a project, request a full copy of the test report (not just the Certificate of Test) from your fire collar manufacturer or supplier. All fire collars need to be totally compliant to AS4072.1 clauses 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.3 and clause 4.6.4.
FireShield Products from Fireball International provide complete confidence that you are working with a fully compliant product and are the ideal choice when selecting a fire collar for your next project.

FIRE COLLARS - THE FAST FACTS
> FireShield Fire Collars are compliant with all relevant Australian Standards
> These collars have a unique design that automatically seals pipe when a fire is detected.
> FireShield products can be applied to a wide range of applications
> FireShield collars are easy to install
> Before installing a fire collar request a full copy of the test report – not just the Certificate of Test

For further information regarding Fire Collars and the FireShield range, visit your local Reece Plumbing Centre or go online at www.fireballinternational.com. To find the location of your nearest Reece Plumbing Centre, simply call 1800 032 566 or visit www.reece.com.au.
PVC and COPPER

What’s causing the price rises?

Over the past year world commodity prices have increased dramatically. Primarily this is attributed to strong demand from developing countries and recovering economies, tight supplies and distribution bottlenecks.

The products that are impacted on the greatest in our industry are PVC and Copper pipe and fittings. Put simply the price rises are caused because demand is strong and supply is scarce. However the following information outlines the causes of the price rises in more detail and provides important guidelines to consider for your business.

The Causes

Raw Materials: Particularly significant with PVC as the primary cost for the production of PVC and other petrochemicals is based on hydrocarbon value, mainly crude oil and natural gas. Rising crude oil prices have led to increased costs of raw materials.

Manufacturing: World economies have underinvested in mining and raw materials due to the belief that there would be no growth in the foreseeable future, which hasn’t been the case.

For example this has resulted in a shortage in the manufacturing capacity of PVC resin. Chemical plants, which produce the materials for PVC are extremely complex, therefore it is expected it will take at least two years for up-grades to be made in order to increase the overall manufacturing capacity.

Demand: The current level of supply and demand is unbalanced, largely due to the demand from China, and as a result prices are pushed up. The increased demand also results in increased shipping costs, which includes everything from container shortages, port congestion and fuel prices.

Australian Dollar: The fluctuation of the Australia dollar relevant to the U.S. dollar affects prices, meaning at times it can be more expensive for Australians to purchase these products.

Products Affected

A number of products have been affected by the price rises. These include:

- PVC Pressure and Non Pressure Pipes & Fittings
- Polyethylene and Polypropylene Pipes
- Ductile Fittings & Values
- Copper Tube Products
- Other products include: brassware; screws; valves; steel

Price Increase Guidelines

1. Speak with your local Reece Trade Counter for further information on the price changes.
2. When price rises occur review quotes for all current and future jobs to ensure the price increases are accounted for.
3. Adjust any internal pricing structures your business may have in place.

The most important factor is to ensure that increases are passed on to the end consumer. Therefore familiarise yourself with any price changes, so you can make the necessary adjustments to quotes and invoices.

Price Increases – What You Need To Know

- Prices for PVC and Copper have been rising
- Price rises for PVC and Copper are influenced by 4 main factors: cost of raw materials, manufacturing capacity, increased demand and a fluctuating Australian Dollar
- A number of PVC and Copper products are affected by price increases
- Stay informed with price changes so you don’t get caught out underestimating your costs
- Adjust internal pricing structures to account for price increases
- Speak to your local Reece Trade counter to find out more
- Be very wary of fixed price contracts

We hope that this information gives you a better understanding of the reasons behind the price rises. For further information regarding PVC & Copper Piping price increases visit your local Reece Trade Counter.
Expanding the network

This month, we’ve added two more stores to our expanding network. There are new centres in West Ryde and we have also relocated our Ridgehaven store to St Agnes.

Price changes

To help manage your purchases, we’ve detailed this month’s main price changes. Should you have any queries, please see your branch manager.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier</th>
<th>Products</th>
<th>% Increase</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All PVC Suppliers (including Vinidex, Key Plastics, Iplex)</td>
<td>PVC Pipe &amp; Fittings, Electrical Conduits, PE Pipe</td>
<td>10 - 12%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom and Kitchen Supplies</td>
<td>Toilets, Basins etc</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bostik</td>
<td>Silicone/Solvent Cement</td>
<td>Up to 12%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooper Tools</td>
<td>Tools</td>
<td>Up to 2%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dechra</td>
<td>Baths and Spas</td>
<td>2 - 4%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enware</td>
<td>TMVs, Tapware, Safety Equipment</td>
<td>3 - 7%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laminex</td>
<td>Laminex Products</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laserlite</td>
<td>Polycarb Roofing</td>
<td>3 - 8%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marbletrend</td>
<td>Baths, Shower Bases</td>
<td>2 - 5%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutton Tools</td>
<td>Drill Bits</td>
<td>4 - 6%</td>
<td>1/11/2004</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RP50 Pressure Testing Pump

$467 inc GST

offer ends 31/12/04