

Recommendations for Installing Large ID Preformed Elastomeric Pipe Insulation

K-Flex USA manufactures preformed pipe insulation in sizes from 3/8" to 8" IPS. Larger sizes (ranging from 2 3/8" ID to 8" IPS) can be supplied with or without cardboard cores in the ID.

Larger ID preformed elastomeric pipe insulation is often slightly oval shaped rather than perfectly round. This is a result of the manufacturing process during which the uncured, soft elastomeric compound is shaped and placed on a belt for curing. The weight of the material causes it to sag during the curing process, resulting in a slightly oval shaped product.

Important Installation Tips

1. When slitting preformed insulation to install on the pipe, always slit the insulation on the flat (top or bottom) not on the edge. This will result in a better fitting / matching seam. Slitting on the edge creates a V groove when the material is put on the pipe.
2. Larger ID preformed insulation may not fit as tightly on the pipe as smaller ID product does due to the larger manufacturing tolerance / variation associated with larger sizes. The air gap created will not present any performance issues (the gap actually increases the R value of the insulation system) provided the butt seams are tightly sealed. Sealing all seams – longitudinal and butt – is critical to the performance of the system.
3. When insulating pipe sizes 4" IPS and above, it may be more cost effective to wrap the pipe using elastomeric sheet. See Technical Bulletin TA28 on the use of elastomeric sheet to insulate large diameter pipes.