

Tech Note 17: Stormwater, Sewer or other Gravity Plumbing Applications Using Press-Fit

TN.17

As a supplier of both press-fit and drainage plumbing products we've had the question more than once over the years and confusion can be caused by inaccurate specifying and/or confusion between brand names.

As a rule, press-fit as a system is not suitable for stormwater, sewer or other gravity drainage lines!

Aside the fact there are other stainless products available and specifically designed for drainage applications;

- Press-fit systems are not WaterMark approved against the required drainage standard; AS/NZS 3495 and hence don't comply with AS/NZS 3500 for drainage applications.
- Press-fit systems are assessed against AS/NZS 3688 and/or AS/NZS 5200 – both of these standards refer to water supply under pressure and not drainage applications.
- The fittings available for stainless press-fit are not available with suitable angles – eg branches and bends are true 90 degree. They do not cater for drainage fall and therefore do not comply with the drainage standard.
- The join between tube and press-fitting has a catch point on the internal surface which for drainage waters, often with sediment or other solids (such as leaves), result in a much higher chance of blockages and reduced flow rates.
- Press-fit joins are permanent and cannot be disconnected for maintenance or clearing possible internal blockages.
- The dimensions of press-fit products are different to drainage products.

These concerns were proven fact in one major project where press-fit was supplied by others for gravity drainage resulting in inaccessible blockages and significant damage throughout the multi-storey building, only weeks after occupation.

Press-fit is an excellent system for water supply (and one reason why we stock it) however, it is not suitable for drainage, hence we strongly discourage and consider press-fit not suitable for stormwater, sewer or other gravity drainage applications.

Should you have any questions or require information on alternative stainless drainage options, please don't hesitate to contact us.