

Flexible Piping Systems

Flexible piping systems are widely used in the petroleum industry because they are environmentally safe and easy-to-install. Flexible piping is corrosion resistant and eliminates piping joints within a run because it uses continuous runs. Most flexible piping systems can be used as both pressure and suction product lines.

Flexible Piping Do's (COMAR 26.10.03.06)

- Can be used for all underground product lines associated with petroleum products.
- Can be used for suction, pressure, and return lines.
- Must be installed in accordance with the piping manufacturer's specifications and COMAR regulation.
- Must use piping and components listed by an approved testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).

Flexible Piping Don't's

- Cannot be used for Stage II or vent applications because of trap formation that will cause vent-breathing problems in the tank.
- Cannot be used for aboveground use.

Recommendations for Flexible Piping

- Before beginning a marina application of flexible piping (usually for dispensers on piers) check with MDE.
- Although flexible piping can be buried directly, MDE recommends piping be run in an UL-listed duct, conduit, or chase. Consult the piping manufacturer for ducts, conduits, or chases.
- MDE recommends that the piping terminate in liquid-tight sumps that are located under the dispenser and at the tank top.
- MDE recommends that routine checks be made of pipe couplings during operations because couplings and related gaskets are the areas most likely to develop leaks.
- MDE recommends using "Loctite" products on flexible piping thread connections.
- MDE recommends all underground storage tank system owners and technicians verify the UL listing status of any new petroleum storage system products before use.