

COMAP: EVERY ANGLE COVERED WITH FITTINGS FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

With ever more choice of fittings solutions now available, finding the right system for the job can be a minefield. Chris Ramster, Product Strategy Director for Comap – the European manufacturer and supplier of heating and plumbing products – discusses the importance of selecting the product most suitable to various installations for maximum time and monetary efficiency:

“The choice of fittings and installation solutions on the market is vast, and we often find that installers, boggled by option overload, head for their old faithful fittings: whether that’s end feed, solder ring or compression. However, with an open mind and flexibility from installation to installation, making the right choice will save time, money and effort.”

Crimping systems

“One of the most important innovations of recent times is crimp. Ideal for large or public installations – whether new-builds or re-fits – the heat and flame free system saves time due to a simple crimping action, reducing labour costs too.

Visual indications – foolproof joints to get the job done

“Comap has developed its Sudopress range of crimp fittings with the launch of Visu Control: a unique, patented technology offering installers quick, easy and unfailing proof that a secure crimp joint has been completed. If a fitting had been overlooked and left uncrimped, this cutting-edge system allows the situation to be rectified at the time of installation, rather than when the system is being filled or pressure tested.”

“Deceptively simple, Visu Control consists of a coloured ring at either end of the copper crimp fitting. The installer simply joins the fittings as usual with a crimping tool, whose pressure alters the shape of the plastic ring, and allows the ring to be removed by hand. A fitting with no plastic ring is proof of a secure connection.

“Available on all Comap’s Sudopress range of copper crimp fittings, Visu Control is colour coded for ease of reference. A green ring denotes WRAS approved water fittings whilst a yellow ring is used for Gastec certified gas fittings. The fittings

feature Sudopress' trademark double crimp, ensuring industry-leading security and reliability."

Multi-layer crimp

"However, copper isn't the right material for every job: sometimes a lighter, more flexible solution is required. That's why Comap has launched its MultiSKIN range, with tubes that are a combination of pex/aluminium/pex, making them workable by hand yet rigid enough to retain their shape. This means that bends can be formed in the pipe, reducing the number of fittings required – minimising both hassle and cost. Waste is also reduced, which is always an important consideration in these environmentally conscious times.

"NHBC compliant, MultiSKIN is detectable with a metal detector and is non corrosive, UV resistant and WRAS approved."

Compression fittings

"A more traditional, but ever popular, solution is compression fittings. Similar to crimp, no heat or flame is necessary, which is vital on sites with flame restrictions, and reduces the need for equipment like a blow lamp. Further, no solder or flux is required, so compression fittings are a mess free solution, making them an ideal solution for re-fit installations in buildings that are inhabited.

"Handy for both tradesmen and DIY fitters, compression fittings are demountable, making them a flexible solution.

"Comap's portfolio includes two ranges of compression fittings: Jevco and Strata, which is manufactured in accordance with EN 1254-2 – both ranges are available in a brass or chrome finish. "

End feed

"In many situations, however, it's important that a fitting can only be demounted by a professional: for example in public spaces such as washrooms, where there's a chance of tampering. That's where end feed fittings come into their own.

"Also ideal for installations on a tight budget, end feed is extremely cost effective. Long popular with installers proud of their craft, end feed requires the careful

application of flux and solder, so really separates skilled tradesmen from jobbing plumbers.

“Suitable for a variety of hot and cold water distribution systems in domestic plumbing, and several types of industrial application, it’s vital that installers use high quality end feed, like Comap’s.”

Solder ring

“ A solid option for areas subject to aggressive water conditions, resistance and immunity to dezincification, Comap’s UK-manufactured, Rabco solder ring fittings in copper, DZR and brass to EN 1254-1&4 and carry a 25 year guarantee. As they’re lead free, they’re suitable for hot and cold and potable services. “

Making the right choice

“Selecting the right fittings for the installation depends on a number of criteria. Whilst cost and speed of fitting are always important, specification and local bylaws must be adhered to before a final choice is made. Naturally, for each installation, bylaws will vary slightly, depending on whether the building is already inhabited, whether the water is potable and so on. And of course, priorities will change depending on the client’s brief and budget.

“What may be a cost effective option on a smaller scale project – for example end feed – could prove a false economy on a larger development. In this instance, crimping systems offer an economy of scale, as the speed with which an installation can be completed, and the fact that they’re flame free, drastically reduces the time required on site and therefore labour costs.

“Quality suppliers like Comap are always available to their customers to discuss the best solutions for specific installations and to provide the technical and certification status of various fittings. Make use of these services and you’ll find your profits soaring!”

For more technical information and further details on quality assurances for various ranges, please contact Comap on 01942 603 351.

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