



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

FACTS ABOUT: FLEXIBLE PIPING SYSTEMS IN UNDERGROUND TANK 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 is installed as a continuous pipe with fittings at each end. 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 pressurized as well as suction and return lines (consult manufacturer).
- 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).
- The Department requires that all newly installed double walled piping installed after January 26, 2005, terminate in liquid-tight sumps that are located under the dispenser and at the tank top.
- Must be installed with proper slope to the UST in accordance with COMAR 26.10.03.02.
- Marina pipe installations on piers and docks (usually for dispensers on piers) must submit plans for the Department's approval before start of installation (COMAR 26.10.03.07).

FLEXIBLE PIPING DON'T'S

- Cannot be used for Stage II vapor return piping or vent applications because of the potential to form traps that will cause a blockage or vent-breathing problem in the tank.
- Cannot be installed for aboveground use (NFPA).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLEXIBLE PIPING

- Although flexible piping can be buried directly, the Department recommends running the piping in an UL-listed duct, conduit, or chase/access pipe. Consult the piping manufacturer for ducts, conduits, or chases.



- The Department recommends that routine checks be made of pipe couplings during operations because couplings and related gaskets are the areas most likely to develop leaks.
- The Department recommends all underground storage tank system owners and technicians verify the UL listing status of any new petroleum storage system products before use.

CONTACTS

For further information on piping requirements for UST systems, please contact the Oil Control Program at (410) 537-3442 or (800) 633-6101 x3442. To report oil spills call 1-866-633-4686. Available 24 hours a day.

****DISCLAIMER****

This fact sheet is intended only as guidance to aide UST owners, operators, and Maryland Certified UST Technicians in understanding and implementing the Department's regulatory requirements. It is not intended to supplement or replace any statutory or regulatory requirements and does not create any enforceable rights at law or equity. In the event of any inadvertent conflict between this fact sheet and the Department's statutes and regulations, the statutes and regulation shall control.