

Application note



Wire, cable and pipe

Selecting the optimum marking solution for plastic pipe extrusion



Users of plastic pipe products are increasingly demanding that these products last longer. In addition, traditional materials such as metal and concrete for sewage or drainage systems and other underground infrastructure are being replaced by plastic alternatives. To support customers with branding, performance attributes and traceability, long-lasting and easy to read product codes are necessary.

The challenge:

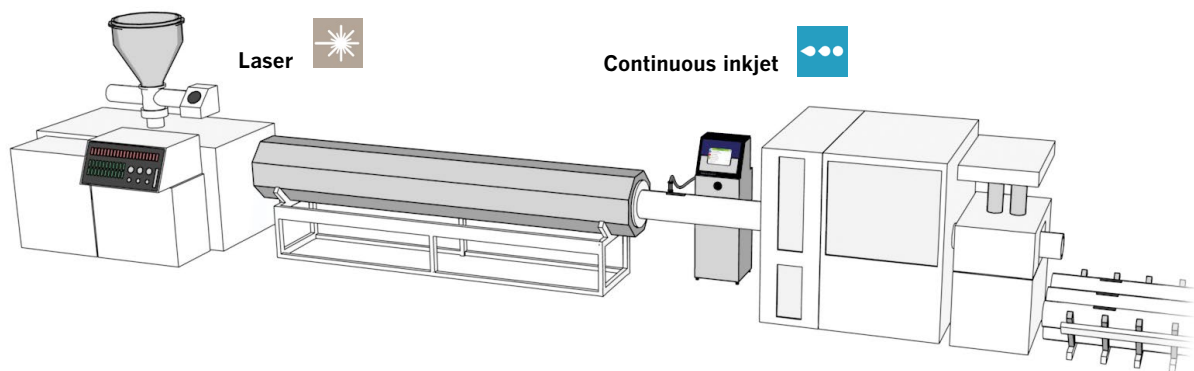
As the use of plastic for underground pipes increases, so do the standards for quality. Products are typically expected to last a minimum of 50-100 years as any leaks or damage can lead to contaminated water supplies and be potentially harmful to the environment and the public. High-quality, long-lasting codes are required to help identify the brand, mark performance attributes of the product and provide a level of traceability in the event of a plastic pipe's quality being compromised.

Videojet advantage:

Videojet understand the need for manufacturers to source more economical and flexible materials to work with and is able to offer coding solutions to the industry that deliver durable and long lasting codes on a variety of plastics. A true partner understands the importance of great code quality and achieving your operational goals. Offering over four decades of experience in your industry, Videojet has the perfect combination of technology, expertise and service options to be your coding partner of choice.

Coding and marking on rigid extruded pipe

The best place for coding is after the forming and cooling trough. Depending on your preferred code location, the printer can easily be configured to print just about anywhere on the pipe or tubing.



Videojet coding solutions for plastic pipe applications

Continuous Inkjet (CIJ)

Ink-based printing of up to five lines of text and 2D bar codes on a variety of materials. The most versatile of all variable technologies, combined with a portfolio of over 175 inks, CIJ prints on nearly any extruded product or surface.



- pigmented fluids apply bright, easy-to-read codes on dark coloured extrusions
- fast-dry inks deliver exceptional code transfer resistance
- can apply tall, bold codes on a wide variety of materials
- print high-quality codes, even in high temperature environments

Laser Marking Systems

Beam of infrared light that creates marks where the heat of the beam contacts the product surface. Improve the durability of codes on extruded products by permanently etching the material surface without physical contact or any need for solvents or extra supplies.



- laser marking on PVC creates easy to read, bright gold characters on white and black pipe materials
- permanent marks on a variety of extruded plastic products
- non-contact technology means no heat from friction and no transfer of codes

Codes that reflect your quality

Printed codes and marks are often the most visible indicator of your brand values and product quality. The legibility and appearance of logos, production and time stamps, bar codes and other marks can all contribute to perceived quality.



Laser code (colour change)



Continuous inkjet codes

Videojet coding solutions are designed to help manufacturers print the highest quality codes while maximizing efficiency and minimizing unexpected downtime.

Uptime Advantage

With a continuous production process and focus on getting products out the door, you cannot afford coder-related downtime. We have engineered our technology to help keep your lines running.

Simple Usability

The cost of a coding and marking solution is a fraction of the investment in the overall packaging line. Videojet equipment integrates seamlessly into your lines and helps maximise line efficiency and productivity.

Code Assurance

Manage an increasing number of codes with flexible, rules-based coding and network communication, configured to get the right code in the right place, on the right product, time after time.

Built-in Productivity

Our products are designed to be intuitive and make operation quick, simple and virtually error-proof. This means you can spend more time focusing on the most critical aspects of your business.

Uponor reaps impressive savings with Videojet printers and inks



Uponor is a leading manufacturer and supplier of plumbing, heating, cooling and fire sprinkler systems for North America and Europe.

Producing thousands of feet of cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) piping every day for use in plumbing, fire sprinklers and radiant heating and cooling systems, Uponor must ensure its product is properly and clearly coded.

Videojet also offered Uponor a wide selection of ink options. This is important given Uponor needed to find inks that would adhere and withstand extreme temperatures and the life of the pipe. Since upgrading the printing equipment and inks, Uponor says they have seen a 90% reduction in waste associated with printing errors.

Uponor selected Videojet not only for its reputable, high-quality inkjet printers and vast selection of inks, but also due to the high-utilisation 1610 dual head and 1620 inkjet printers' ease of integration and ability to communicate with external systems.

Homelux Nenplas chooses inkjet coding on plastics products



To help code and identify their extruded products, Homelux Nenplas Ltd. in Ashbourne, UK, has relied on Videojet Technologies equipment and supplies.

With its production running 24 hours a day, five days a week, Homelux Nenplas needed additional coding capabilities. So it recently purchased six Videojet small character inkjet printers to code dates, identification, and product numbers in messages up to three lines long. The company also uses these Videojet units to apply their brand logo onto its plastic extruded products.

Andrew Wood, Maintenance Manager at Homelux Nenplas, is impressed with the reliability of the new inkjet printers. The results of upgrading to new coding technology have been dramatic. The Videojet 1510 inkjet printers have saved the Ashbourne site at least ten hours a week on setup and cleaning time.

Kalsi Plastics chooses laser marking over inkjet for coding extruded products



Kalsi Plastics, a thriving plastic moulding company based in Birmingham, UK, has chosen Videojet over the leading competitors to replace their existing continuous inkjet equipment with new laser technology.

Kalsi found that their inkjet codes would often fade due to weathering on the company's external building materials including gutters, pipes and windows. Videojet showed Kalsi that a laser technology solution would be ideal for marking permanent all-weather codes on these products.

Videojet went up against the competition for the laser business with outstanding sample codes and faster marking times. The winning difference was the sound customer service provided by Videojet. Videojet was able to clinch the deal and install three 10-Watt lasers with the plan to replace all remaining CIJ equipment.

[Click here to read the full versions of the above case studies.](#)

Let Videojet help you select the right solution to meet your production objectives and performance needs.

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