STEEL-THERM
D.I. COUPLED STEEL PIPING SYSTEM

STEEL-THERM
THERMACOR’S STEEL-THERM is a factory-fabricated, pre-insulated piping system for chilled water, heating water, or domestic hot water. The system is designed with a steel carrier pipe (type and grade specified, as required) joined with Ductile Iron couplings, closed cell polyurethane foam insulation, and a High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) jacket.

Carrier Pipe
- \( d \geq 2" \) - A53 ERW Grade B, Std. Wt. Black Steel
- \( d < 2" \) - A106 SML, Std. Wt. Black Steel
- Seamless & Schedule 80 pipe are available for all sizes.
- Std. Wt. is the same as Schedule 40 through 10”.
- Ductile Iron Couplings

Polyurethane Insulation
- Density \( > 2.0 \text{ lbs/ft}^3 \)
- “K” Factor \( \leq 0.16 \text{ @ 75°F} \)
- Compressive Strength \( > 30 \text{ psi} \)
- Closed Cell Content \( > 90\% \text{ @ 75°F} \)

Jacket
- High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)
**SPECIFICATION GUIDE**

**GENERAL**
All underground and above ground piping materials transporting chilled water, heating water, or domestic hot water shall be **STEEL-THERM** as manufactured by **THERMACOR PROCESS INC.** All straight pipe, fittings, insulating materials, and technical support shall be provided by the manufacturer.

**SERVICE PIPE**
The carrier or service pipe shall be A-53, Grade B, ERW, Standard Weight for pipe sizes 2” and larger and A106/ A53, Grade B, seamless, standard weight for pipe sizes 1.5” and smaller. All carbon steel pipe shall have ends cut square and beveled for gasket coupling joints. Straight sections shall be supplied in 20 or 40 foot random lengths with cutbacks to allow for coupling at the field joints.

**INSULATION**
Insulation of the service pipe shall be rigid polyurethane foam with a minimum 2.0 lbs/ft³ density, 90% minimum closed cell content, and a “K” factor not higher than .16 at 75°F per ASTM C518. The polyurethane foam shall be CFC-free. The polyurethane foam shall completely fill the annular space between the service pipe and jacket, and shall be bonded to both. Insulation shall be provided to the minimum insulation thickness specified.

**JACKET**
The outer protective jacket shall be high density polyethylene (HDPE). No FRP, HDUP, or tape jacket allowed.

**FITTINGS**
Fittings shall be butt-welded steel. The fittings are uninsulated and anchored with concrete thrust blocks. Fittings are thrust blocked at all changes of direction and pipe size changes. Thrust block design and sizing is the responsibility of the design engineer. Steel fittings are to be coated with brush applied mastic provided by Thermacor.

**FIELD JOINTS**
Service pipe shall be hydrostatically tested as per the Engineer’s specification with a factory recommendation of 1.5 times the specified pressure of the system. Joints between pipe sections are joined using ductile iron couplings. (*At the Engineer’s option, joints may be jacketed with an HDPE split sleeve and sealed with a heat shrink sleeve to prevent the ingress of moisture or debris.*) All jacketing materials shall be furnished by THERMACOR.

**INSTALLATION**
Installation of the piping system shall be in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions. Factory trained field technicians shall be provided for critical periods of installation, unloading, field joint instruction, and testing.

* For alternate specifications, please contact THERMACOR.

**Your Authorized THERMACOR Representative Is:**

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Pre-insulated Steel Piping Systems suitable for Chilled Water, Heating Water, Domestic Hot Water.

Part 1 - General

1.1 Pre-insulated Piping - Furnish a complete system of factory pre-insulated steel piping for the specified service. All pre-insulated pipe, fittings, insulating materials, and technical support shall be provided by the Pre-insulated Piping System manufacturer.

1.2 The system shall be STEEL-THERM manufactured by Thermacor Process Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas.

Part 2 - Products

2.1 Carrier pipe shall be steel ASTM A-53, Grade B., ERW (Type E) or seamless (Type S), standard weight for sizes 2” and larger, and shall be ASTM A-106/ A-53, Grade F (Type F) seamless, standard weight for sizes 1-1/2” and smaller (Std. Wt. is the same as Sch. 40 through 10”). All carbon steel pipe shall have ends cut square and beveled for gasket coupling joints.

2.2 Insulation shall be polyurethane foam either spray applied or injected with one shot into the annular space between carrier pipe and jacket, and shall be bonded to both. Insulation shall be rigid, 90-95% closed cell polyurethane with a 2.0 to 3.0 lbs. per cubic foot density and coefficient of thermal conductivity (K- Factor) of 0.16 and shall conform to ASTM C-591. Maximum operating temperature shall not exceed 250°F. Insulation thickness shall be specified by calling out appropriate carrier pipe and jacket size combinations as listed on drawing STSG 11.103.

2.3 Jacketing material shall be extruded, black, high density polyethylene (HDPE), having a wall thickness not less than 100 mils for jacket sizes less than or equal to 12”, 125 mils for jacket sizes greater than 12” to 24”, and 150 mils for jacket sizes larger than 24”. No tape jacket allowed. The inner surface of the HDPE jacket shall be oxidized by means of corona treatment, flame treatment (patent pending), or other approved methods. This will ensure a secure bond between the jacket and foam insulation preventing any ingression of water at the jacket/ foam interface.

2.4 Straight run joints are joined using ductile iron couplings with EPDM gaskets. (Joints are insulated with flexible polyurethane and may be jacketed with a split sleeve and sealed with heat shrink tape to prevent the ingression of moisture or debris.)

2.5 Fittings shall be butt-welded steel. The fittings are uninsulated and anchored with concrete thrust blocks. Fittings are thrust blocked at all changes of direction and pipe size changes. Steel fittings are to be coated with a thick layer (1/16”) of mastic.

Part 3 - Execution

3.1 Underground systems shall be buried in a trench of not less than two feet deeper than the top of the pipe and not less than eighteen inches wider than the combined O.D. of all piping systems. A minimum thickness of 24 inches of compacted backfill over the top of the pipe will meet H-20 highway loading.

3.2 Trench bottom shall have a minimum of 6” of sand, pea gravel, or specified backfill material, as approved by the engineer, as a cushion for the piping. Pipe and fittings shall be laid sequentially, field cutting the pipe as necessary per the manufacturer’s installation instructions. At least the center 75% of each section of pre-insulated pipe shall be covered (approximately one foot of cover per 100 psi of test pressure) with select backfill material. All fittings shall be suitably thrust blocked before attempting any pressure tests of the system.

3.3 A hydrostatic pressure test of the carrier pipe shall be performed per the engineer’s specification with a factory recommendation of one and one-half times the normal system operating pressure for not less than two hours. Care shall be taken to insure all trapped air is removed from the system prior to the test. Appropriate safety precautions shall be taken to guard against possible injury to personnel in the event of a failure.
3.4 Field service, if required by project specifications, will be provided by a certified manufacturer’s representative or company field service technician. The technician will be available at the job to check unloading, storing, and handling of pipe, joint installation, pressure testing, and backfilling techniques. This service will be added into the cost as part of the project technical services required by the pre-insulated pipe manufacturer.
### Carrier Pipe:
- \( d \geq 2" \) - A53 ERW Grade B, Std. Wt. Black Steel
- \( d < 2" \) - A106 SML, Std. Wt. Black Steel
- Seamless and Schedule 80 pipe available for all sizes
- Std. Wt. is the same as Schedule 40 for all sizes thru 10"
- XS is the same as Schedule 80 for all sizes thru 8"
- Ductile Iron Couplings

### Jacketing Material:
High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)

### Insulation:
Polyurethane Foam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pipe Size</th>
<th>Jacket Size</th>
<th>Standard Length L</th>
<th>Insulation Thickness t</th>
<th>External Diameter D</th>
<th>Weight Per Foot (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>5.4&quot;</td>
<td>20'</td>
<td>1.65&quot;</td>
<td>5.40&quot;</td>
<td>4.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&quot;</td>
<td>5.4&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.41&quot;</td>
<td>5.40&quot;</td>
<td>5.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-1/2&quot;</td>
<td>6.7&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.80&quot;</td>
<td>6.68&quot;</td>
<td>7.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&quot;</td>
<td>6.7&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.49&quot;</td>
<td>6.68&quot;</td>
<td>9.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&quot;</td>
<td>8.7&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.99&quot;</td>
<td>8.68&quot;</td>
<td>13.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>10.9&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>2.01&quot;</td>
<td>10.85&quot;</td>
<td>22.79</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12.9&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.99&quot;</td>
<td>12.85&quot;</td>
<td>32.96</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14.1&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.56&quot;</td>
<td>14.12&quot;</td>
<td>45.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>16.1&quot;</td>
<td>40'</td>
<td>1.57&quot;</td>
<td>16.14&quot;</td>
<td>56.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Other sizes are available
HEAT LOSS FOR 1” OF POLYURETHANE FOAM*

- Burial depth: 36”
- Soil conductivity: 12 (Btu/h.ft².°F/ft)
- Soil temperature: 50°F

* Values are calculated using 3E Plus in accordance with ASTM C680 and are subject to the terms and limitations stated in the software. Actual heat loss may vary.

HEAT LOSS FOR 2” OF POLYURETHANE FOAM*

- Burial depth: 36”
- Soil conductivity: 12 (Btu/h.ft².°F/ft)
- Soil temperature: 50°F

* Values are calculated using 3E Plus in accordance with ASTM C680 and are subject to the terms and limitations stated in the software. Actual heat loss may vary.
GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

UNLOADING & HANDLING
Lift joints from trucks. DO NOT DROP SHARP OR HEAVY OBJECTS ON INSULATED UNITS. DO NOT use chains or other devices which might puncture insulation jacket.

STORAGE
Pipe is stockpiled off the ground. Do not exceed a stacking height of 6’. Prevent dirt and debris from entering pipe. Fittings, joining materials, etc. must be stored indoors to protect them from freezing, overheating, moisture, or loss.

LAYING OF PIPE UNITS – TRENCHING
All sharp rocks, roots, and other abrasive material must be removed from the trench. The trench bed should be 6” of sand or backfill as specified by the engineer, providing a smooth and uniform stabilizing surface (sandbags may be used as a means to keep the pipe off the ground until backfilling is started). The trench width should provide a minimum of 6” from trench wall to jacket O.D. and a minimum of 6” between pipe units. Trench depths will be indicated on the contract drawing and in line with good construction practices. Trench depth should allow for a minimum cover of 24” on top of the insulated unit.

FIELD JOINING METHODS
Pipe should be laid straight and level. Installation that results in cocking of coupling or pinching of gasket is unacceptable.

1. Inspect carrier pipe ends for proper bevel. Any burrs or scratches should be touched up with grinder or fine tooth file. Slide sleeve cover over one end of jacket.

2. Rub a thin layer of lubricant over carrier pipe end and gasket. Use lubricant supplied by Thermacor. Do NOT use petroleum-based lubricant.

3. Insert pipe ends into DI coupling.** Take care not to damage pipe ends during installation. Partially backfill (see TESTING) and pressure test as per specifications.

4. Insulate DI coupling and slide sleeve over coupling so that there is equal overlap.

5. Wrap tape around each end of sleeve with overlap at the top. Rub out any tape wrinkles with knife hilt.

**Coupling must be cleaned before assembly. Be sure gasket groove is clean and that the gasket is seated properly. Lubricate smooth pipe spigot with Thermacor provided lubricant. Insert pipe spigot carefully to prevent cutting or rolling of gasket. Coupling should fit tightly against factory insulation.
FIELD ALTERATIONS
Pipe will be cut in the field, based on the appropriate field measurements for fittings and/or making manhole or wall entries unless the system is pre-engineered with piece mark sections. If special short pieces are required, measure distance needed for field alteration and cut through unit with saw. Using factory insulated pipe as guide, cut back insulation and bevel pipe with a bevel that is approximately 15 degrees from pipe centerline and 3/4 of an inch long (simultaneously removing burrs, cuts, nicks, and scratches). Apply end seals to the clean, dry, exposed insulation surface. Where fittings are required, they must be welded, using approved welding methods with appropriate schedule fittings. If gasket DI fittings are used, the pipe must be beveled correctly. Do NOT put mastic on gasket.

BACKFILL INITIAL
After pipe is installed, specified backfill shall be tamped around the conduit in 6” layers to insure proper compaction. One foot on either side of each joint and fitting shall be left bare for visual inspection during testing.

TESTING
Sufficient backfill must be placed on pipe, and anchor blocks poured and cured, prior to testing. Bleed all air from lines to eliminate possible incorrect readings. The hydrostatic pressure test shall be performed per the engineer’s specification with a factory recommendation of one and one-half times the normal operating pressure for not less than two hours. Inspect all fittings, valves, and couplings at this time. Appropriate safety precautions shall be taken to guard against possible injury to personnel in the event of a failure.

BACKFILL FINAL
Before backfilling is started, the trench should be cleaned of any trench wall cave-ins and general trash, especially metal. Backfilling should be done with sand or other engineer-approved material 6” below the casing to 1’ above. Engineer-approved backfill may be used to fill the rest of the trench. This material should be free of rocks, roots, large clods, or anything that could cause damage to the jacket. Jacket should have a minimum of 2’ cover.

WHEELED OR TRACKED VEHICLES SHALL NOT BE USED FOR TAMMING!

THRUSt BLOCK INSTALLATION

The engineer who designs the system has the responsibility for designing and sizing the thrust blocks. A knowledge of site soil conditions is essential for proper design. Thermacor will not accept or assume responsibility for thrust blocks, and intends to provide basic data only.

WHY THRUST BLOCKS?
A Steel-Therm system must include thrust blocks to prevent the gasketed joints from separating under pressure. To prevent separation, thrust blocks must be located at:
1. All major changes in direction; i.e., tees and elbows (both horizontal and vertical).
2. All changes in size.
3. All terminal ends.
4. All Valves, so as to support the body weight and prevent excessive torque on pipe connections.
5. IMPORTANT: Any connecting welded steel pipe must be anchored at the point of connection to the Steel-Therm pipe to prevent excessive stresses from being transferred to the DI couplings.
INSTALLATION
As thrust blocks are an essential part of the system, they should be poured before hydrostatic testing. Temporary thrust blocking may be used with extreme caution if absolutely necessary. The system must be retested after the permanent thrust blocks are poured and cured to verify that the thrust blocks will resist the thrust.

DESIGN
The design of the thrust blocks depends on test pressure, size, number of pipes, soil conditions, and types of fittings involved. Three conditions must be met for the thrust blocks to function properly.
1. The bearing area must be adequate to resist the pressure force.
2. The bearing surface must rest directly against undisturbed soil.
3. The face of the block bearing surface in the soil must be perpendicular to the resultant direction of thrust.

If the thrust blocks have not been designed by the engineer, they must be sized by the following procedure:

**Example:** Design a thrust block to resist the horizontal thrust of two 4" chilled water lines (supply and return) at a 90° elbow. The test pressure is 150 psi and the soil is soft clay.

### TABLE 1
POUNDS OF THRUST AT FITTING FOR 100 POUNDS/SQ. INCH OPERATING PRESSURE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PIPE SIZE</th>
<th>TEE</th>
<th>90°</th>
<th>45°</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2&quot;</td>
<td>445</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2½&quot;</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&quot;</td>
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<td>4&quot;</td>
<td>1,590</td>
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<td>1,215</td>
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<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>3,450</td>
<td>4,875</td>
<td>2,640</td>
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<td>8&quot;</td>
<td>5,840</td>
<td>8,260</td>
<td>4,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>9,080</td>
<td>12,830</td>
<td>6,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>12,770</td>
<td>18,050</td>
<td>9,770</td>
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### TABLE 2
SAFE BEARING LOADS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOIL</th>
<th>LB. PER SQ. FT.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muck, Peat</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Clay</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand &amp; Gravel</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand &amp; Gravel cemented with clay</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hard Shale</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STEP 1 FINDING THRUST:**
From Table 1, the resultant thrust of a 4" x 90° elbow is 2,250 lbs. at 100 psi.
At 150 psi, the thrust is:

\[
\frac{2250 \text{ lbs.} \times \frac{150 \text{ psi}}{100 \text{ psi}}}{100 \text{ psi}} = 3375 \text{ lbs. elbow}
\]

3375 lbs. x 2 = 6,750 lbs. thrust for two elbows.

**STEP 2 FINDING BEARING AREA OF BLOCK:**
From Table 2, soft clay has a bearing strength of 1,000 lbs./sq. ft. therefore:

\[
\frac{6750 \text{ lbs.}}{1000 \text{ lbs./sq. ft.}} = 6.75 \text{ sq. ft. bearing area required}
\]

or a block face of 4’ x 2’ (8 sq. ft.) is adequate.
THRUST BLOCK TYPES
Examples of thrust blocks for normal fittings are illustrated.
For vertical risers the trench bottom must be undercut, and the entire trench bottom should be covered with concrete.
The thrust blocks must bear against firm, stable soil.

CONSTRUCTION
Thrust blocks are made of concrete.
An acceptable concrete is 1 part Portland cement, 2 parts washed sand, and 3 parts washed gravel with enough water for a relatively dry mix. The dry mix is easier to shape and offers higher strength.
The concrete should be worked thoroughly around the elbows for maximum surface contact. Make sure the entire area between the fittings and the trench wall is filled with concrete and free of voids.
The blocks should be shaped with the designed bearing area against the trench wall. Smaller blocks should be shaped by hand. Larger blocks require simple forms.
The trench should be undercut under the pipes at least six inches to give added thrust resistance and to provide adequate concrete around the fittings. Six inches of concrete should be over the top of the pipe.
The center of the thrust blocks bearing surface should coincide with the horizontal center line of the pipes. (See figures I and II).

UNSTABLE SOIL
If the soil is unstable in the area of a thrust block, it will be necessary for the engineer to make special provisions. This is considered a civil engineering matter and a project civil engineer should be consulted for professional advice.

VALVE BLOCKS
Blocks must be poured beneath valves with sufficient steel for valve connections. This supports the valve weight and prevents any torque or twisting action caused by opening and closing the valve.
**SHIPPING & HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS**

HANDLE COATED PIPE WITH EXTRA CARE! THIS PIPE CAN DAMAGE WHEN HANDLED, MOVED, OR STORED IMPROPERLY!

**UPON RECEIPT OF MATERIALS**
Make an overall inspection of the load, checking all bands and braces to see if they are intact. Also, check the load for shifting. If the load has shifted, or if the braces and bands are broken, examine each pipe for damage. HAVE THE TRUCK DRIVER MAKE AN ITEMIZED NOTATION OF ANY DAMAGE ON THE DELIVERY RECEIPT AND HAVE IT SIGNED BY THE DRIVER.

**CHECK PACKING LIST**
Compare materials received with those listed on the packing list. Count all pipe and boxes. NOTE ANY SHORTAGES ON DRIVER’S DELIVERY RECEIPT.

**CHECK BOXES**
Open all boxes and inspect for damages, shortages, and correct size. REPORT ANY DISCREPANCIES WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT.

**CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES**
Claims for damages in transit or lost goods must be made within 30 days. The filing of any claim is the Purchaser’s Responsibility. Thermacor will file any claim on Purchaser’s behalf upon receipt of the following:

1. Written authority to file such a claim.
2. Written notice of loss or damage (signed and noted Bill of Lading) by truck driver or carrier freight agent.

**UNLOADING PIPE**
Pipe may be unloaded by hand or with fork lifts*, cherry pickers, or cranes. DO NOT HOOK pipe ends. Minimum 4” wide straps or slings should be used.

*Fork Lift – When using Fork Lift, wide tines or a large surface covering the fork tines must be used to prevent coating damage. Fork Lift must be able to handle the weight of the insulated pipe length.

**PIPE STOCKPILING**
Pipe should be stored on level ground, elevated to be as dry as possible, and in such a way that the pipe ends do not lie in water or on the ground. To prevent deformation of the jacket and insulation due to the weight of the pipe, place a series of supports (3 for 20’ or 5 for 40’) of ample size generally constructed from 2” x 4”s under the pipe as shown below. Supports should increase in width as weight load increases so that the top supports of a fully loaded stockpile should be approximately 10” wide, gradually increasing to the bottom level, approximately 18” wide. Pipe can be pyramidied (within reasonable and safe limits) approximately 6’ high after a properly braced or chocked base is formed. Pipe stored outside for long periods of time can be covered with blue mesh tarpaulin (plywood can also be used). Do not prevent airflow as jacket can be deformed from heat buildup.

BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO DROP THE PIPE!

NOTE: Thermacor does not approve of the practice of installing pipe and fittings, and backfilling the pipe before testing. Thermacor will not allow or pay claims for charges which arise in locating and digging up leaks regardless of cause.