



256 Aberdeen Road W
Lethbridge, AB T1J 0N2

Telephone. (403) 328-5856

Facsimile. (403) 328-5854

Mobile. (403) 360-5857

tom@bluegrassltd.ca • www.bluegrassltd.ca

Comparison of PVC vs HDPE Piping Systems on Golf Courses

PVC PIPE		HD POLY PIPE
	(1) Design Characteristics	
100%	Same Size Pipe Flow @ 4 fps Water Velocity	80% of PVC flow
Same	Timed Static Pressure Rating (no surge or flow in pipe)	Same
Less than Static	Working Pressure Rating (surge & flow events in pipe)	Greater than Static
More	Availability of Pipe / Fittings	Less
	(2) Installation Characteristics	
Shorter	Time to Install Mainline (4" & Larger size)	Longer
Longer	Time to Install Laterals (2" – 3" size)	Shorter
Mechanical	Mainline Pipe Joining Method	Butt Fusion
Saddle	Mainline to Lateral Connection Method	Side Wall Fusion
Glue - Gasket	Fittings Used on Laterals to Sprinklers	Saddle
Required	Thrust Restraints / Thrust Blocks	Not Required
Yes	Need for Proper Alignment of Pipes	No, Able to Curve
Yes	Need for Proper Backfill Material Around Pipes	No
	(3) Maintenance Characteristics	
Breaks	Durability (Ice In or Around Pipe / Soil Movement)	Will not Break
30 Years	Life Expectancy of Pipe & Fittings	50 Years Minimum
Difficult	Repairing Leaks / Breaks on Mainline	More Difficult
Easy	Repairing Leaks / Breaks on Laterals	Easy
	(4) Cost	
Less	Initial – Capital Cost	More
More	Long Term – Operating Costs	Less
	(5) Overall Rating	
Good	Evaluation Over Time	Best