

CertainTeed Selecting, Assembling and Installing Certa-Lok™ C900/RJ™ PVC Pipe

Selecting Certa-Lok C900/RJ PVC Pipe

The following table can be used to select the proper size and class of C900/RJ pipe for various uses, flow rates and operating pressures, and code requirements:

C900/RJ Selection Table with UL Listing Data

Pipe Size	4"	6"	8"	10"	12"
DR18	UL listed for Underground Restrained Joint Water Mains				
DR14	UL listed for Underground Restrained Joint Water Mains			UL listed for Conventional Underground Water Mains Installed with Thrust Blocks	

Note: *All UL approvals shown are for a locking-joint system suitable for directional drilling, pipebursting, and other underground applications.*

Assembling Certa-Lok C900/RJ Joints

Couplings, with o-ring gaskets already inserted in the gasket grooves, are packaged in sealed cardboard boxes along with the necessary locking splines. Keep these boxes sealed until ready for use to prevent dirt from getting into the couplings, and especially the gasket grooves. If dirt does get into the gasket grooves, the gaskets must be removed and cleaned, the grooves must be cleaned, and the gaskets then reinserted before they can be installed onto the pipes.

To install the couplings onto the pipes, make sure the couplings and pipe spigots are clean and well-aligned. Lubricate the pipe spigots, especially the tapered noses of the pipe spigots – do not leave any spot dry as this may cause the pipe spigot to grab the gasket and tear it rather than slide past it as intended (note that all gaskets are Teflon coated as a safety measure to prevent the gasket from sticking to the spigot, but this feature is not intended to decrease the need for proper lubrication prior to assembly).

Make certain that the gaskets are properly seated in their grooves because they can become dislodged during shipping and handling, especially if they have been dropped onto the ground. Heeding this one precaution, along with complete joint lubrication, will help prevent joint leaks.

With the spline insertion holes facing up (so the splines can be easily inserted), push the coupling onto the pipe spigot until it stops against the pipe nose. Fully insert the locking spline. A spline insertion tool is available to ease this task. Now insert the next pipe into the other side of the coupling, making sure that the pipe is lined up properly with the coupling, and fully insert the second spline.

Installing Certa-Lok C900/RJ

The unique Certa-Lok restrained-joint piping system can be installed conventionally in trenches, or by using trenchless techniques such as Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and Pipebursting.

When pipe is installed using trenchless techniques, do not exceed the maximum recommended pulling or bending limits for the pipe as shown in Lit Code 40-24-25.

When the pull-in is complete, apply pushing forces to each end of the pipeline to relieve any stretch that may be remaining.

Thrust Blocks

Thrust conditions exist in pressurized piping systems at all location where the forces are not in balance. These include tees, elbows, reducers, caps and valves (which act like caps when closed). Use of thrust blocks is the most common method to control thrust forces. Restrained-joint piping systems like Certa-Lok C900/RJ are specially constructed to handle these forces without the need for thrust blocks. **However, C900/RJ DR14 in sizes 10" and 12" still requires thrust blocks – they are not UL-approved as restrained-joint systems.**

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