

Pipe Material Selection

Common compressed air piping materials with their advantages and disadvantages.

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages
Black Iron	Moderate material costs Readily available in multiple sizes	Labor intensive installation May rust and leak Rough inside promotes contaminant build up and creates pressure drop
Galvanized Iron	Moderate material costs Readily available in multiple sizes Some rust protection	Often only exterior is coated Labor intensive installation Rough inside promotes contaminant build up and creates pressure drop May rust at joints and leak
Copper	No rust, good air quality Smooth interior-low pressure drop	Requires quality brazing to prevent leaks Susceptible to thermal cycling Installation involves open flame
Stainless Steel	No rust, good air quality Smooth interior-low pressure drop	Labor intensive installation Expensive materials