

The Dhatec Pipe Stop installation in Alberta.

Increasing safety and efficiency in pipe storage

More and more clients of Dhatec have started to use the system and realize the multiple benefits of switching over. Several coating facilities in northern Alberta (Canada) utilized Pipe Stop for 1600 joints for a 36 in. dia. project, which required long-term onsite storage (Figure 1). Points of attention for this case were, reduction of their storage footprint and subsequent storage costs as well as reducing the spending on Wood dunnage.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Typically, 36 in. pipes would have been stored to a maximum height of three tiers due to concerns of stack stability and ovality. Pipe Stop was selected as the ideal candidate for this project application. It consisted of a series of steel-reinforced polyethylene (PE) rails and blocks, which provided two points of support for the pipe diameter at each bearing point. This reduced the overall stress in the pipe diameter by 47%. The PE blocks have specific load ratings, which increases the predictability of stacking and decreases the risk of stack collapses. Since the pipes were 24 m (80 ft) in length, they were placed on four bearing rail supports.

The use of this product allowed the stack height to be increased by two tiers, resulting in a footprint reduction of approximately 40%. The reduced footprint led to savings for the client in the magnitude of US\$50 000/y, as well as savings of US\$60 000 in wood dunnage costs. Pipe Stop also eliminated previous safety concerns with the manual chock-blocking process involving hammers and nails.

Due to the long-term storage requirement, these joints were also equipped with Bevel Protector and PE Plugs: a high clamping force pipe closure system, which prevented the entry of the elements such as dirt, debris and snow (Figure 2).