
F.M. Insulation News - March 2015

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F.M. Insulation Supplies

A division of Flavell Management & Industrial Services Pty Ltd
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FM Insulation News

March 2015

Greetings!

The year started brightly after the Christmas New Year break but seems to have stalled a bit in the last couple of weeks, with activity levels dipping a little.

Industry Overview

Activity in the industrial area has picked up somewhat, with a number of power station shutdowns under way. Construction activity, while being quite good, has experienced a bit of a downturn, but promises to pick up over the next month or so. New office construction and renovation planned along the tram line in George Street Sydney should augur well for our industry for quite a few years ahead.

Rockwool v Fibreglass spi

While we have seen the trend towards polyethylene pipe insulation and away from fibreglass, we are also seeing a trend away from fibreglass spi towards rockwool spi for hot water piping.

While we can understand the move away from fibrous products towards the much more user friendly polyethylene, we are a bit perplexed why anyone would want to switch from fibreglass spi to rockwool spi. This is particularly unusual as the insulating properties of rockwool are inferior to fibreglass at the temperatures encountered with hot water systems. The additional weight, almost twice as heavy, and the

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associated on-site handling problems make it a strange trend. Not to mention the additional cost.

Please let us know if you are being asked to use rockwool in lieu of fibreglass in this application. We would be interested to know why.

Pipe Insulation Selection Guide



Speaking of hot water pipe insulation... we've just published a selection guide with the characteristics of the various forms of pipe insulation. It includes a handy listing of standard stock sizes.

[Download it now!](#)

Pricing

Finally, and thankfully, the value of our dollar seems to have stabilised against the \$US. As you will be aware the vast majority of pipe insulation used in Australia is now imported, even the insulation produced here will be dependent to some degree on imported inputs.

Any further depreciation of the \$AUS would bring about unavoidable pressure on pricing levels beyond those of our pricelist dated 1 March 2015. If you haven't received the latest price list please call Karl and he will forward it to you.

Foster 30-36 in 4 litre pots



Demand for these smaller pots continues to grow and a new batch of over 250 pots was received this month to meet the on-going demand. The smaller pots seem to be very popular in the ship repair and the commercial building sectors.

Master Plumbers Roadshow

Once again this year we will be exhibiting at the Master Plumbers Roadshow. This year we will be at :

5th May 2015	Cronulla Leagues Club
23rd June 2015	Port Macquarie Panthers
11th August 2015	Orange Ex Servicemans Club
12th August 2015	Bathurst Panthers
October 2015	Master Plumbers College Auburn

That's it for now, our next newsletter will include an end of financial

year review.

Thank you all for your on-going support of our company, to all of us here at FMIS it continues to be a pleasure to know you all and to be of service to you and your companies.

Mike Flavell
F.M. Insulation Supplies

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