
TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB161

USE OF ELECTRIC HEAT CABLE ON RAUPEX[®] AND MUNICIPEX[®] PIPE

Product: **RAUPEX AND MUNICIPEX Pipe**
Date: **18 October 2011 (supercedes TB161, 06 November 2009)**

REHAU's RAUPEX and MUNICIPEX pipes have a very low thermal conductivity when compared to metallic pipes, and are less likely to freeze than copper. If they do freeze, RAUPEX and MUNICIPEX pipes will expand rather than splitting or cracking (this does not apply when pipes are encased in concrete), as long as they have room to expand along their length.

However, for severe applications where pipes are exposed to cold temperatures and are susceptible to freezing, several electric heat cable products are available to reduce the risk of frozen water pipes.

REHAU has examined these products and approves of their use with RAUPEX and MUNICIPEX pipes, provided that the manufacturer's installation instructions approve of the product's use with "plastic pipes," and all the manufacturer's instructions are followed.

Electric cables that are thermostatically-controlled only operate when the cable's sensor detects a near-freezing condition. Tested heat cables reached a maximum temperature of 160°F (65°C). RAUPEX and MUNICIPEX pipes can withstand temperatures as high as 230°F (110°C) for a short period of time when filled with water (or ice). Therefore, the tested heat cable should not damage the RAUPEX or MUNICIPEX pipes.

RAUPEX and MUNICIPEX pipes must be installed in accordance with local codes and published REHAU installation instructions.

Note: When attaching electric heat cable to RAUPEX or MUNICIPEX pipe, REHAU recommends the using Nylon Pipe Ties (Art. No. 724448) so cable is installed closely enough for consistent heating. This fastening method should be verified with the heat cable manufacturer.

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