

POLYETHYLENE INSULATION ID

Nomaco products have been engineered to fit over the outside diameter of copper fittings such as couplings, ells, tees, etc. The wall thickness of copper fittings increases as the copper tube size increases and necessitates that the inside diameter of the insulation be sized proportionately bigger than the corresponding copper tube.

This insulation sizing convention was adopted to maximize the effectiveness of the pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) seam found on all pre-slit, pre-glued pipe insulation. Eliminating any undesirable stresses on the seam provides for insulation with hassle free, long-term performance.

The gap between the insulation and the copper tubing should be expected and is evidence of correctly sized insulation. The air gap will also be true when sleeving the product to achieve thickness greater than 1". The ID of the second layer will be slightly larger than the OD of the first layer. All insulation systems, especially those designed to control condensation, should be sealed properly. This involves the complete engagement of the PSA on the longitudinal (for pre-slit, pre-glued products), circumferential/butt, and miter seams. It is recommended to adhere the beginning and ending of insulation runs to the pipe being insulated to be sure air does not penetrate into the gap between the pipe and the insulation.

The air gap allows for ease of sliding the insulation on the pipe. It also allows for expansion and contraction of the pipe without putting stress on the insulation during system cycling (hot to cold). The air gap actually increases the R-Value of the insulation system.

Engineering Note

An additional prerequisite is the compression fitting of the insulation. Install an additional 2 inches (2") of insulation for every 6 feet (6') of measured pipe to allow for any contraction of the insulation. The practice of compression fitting also applies to the installation of sheet products.