

Best Practice for Gas & Torch when Soldering

Typical products used for soldering of 15mm & 22mm copper pipe.



Background

Soldering copper pipe requires the use of a gas torch and a gas e.g **Propane** or **MAP//Pro®**. The main hazard with soldering is fire and soldering has the three fire triangle requirements for fire - **Heat** from the torch, **Fuel** from the gas and surrounding material, **Oxygen** from the air. Always keep a **Fire Extinguisher** within easy reach when soldering to help minimise the risk of fire and injury.



Gas - Safety First

To **minimise risk**, if you **smell, hear or suspect gas** is leaking from the torch or gas cylinder, do not ignite the torch. Move the torch and gas cylinder outside to a **well ventilated area away from any ignition** or heat source and **disconnect the torch from the gas cylinder**.

Fire Extinguisher

Minimising Risk to users of the torch and property is a legal requirement under Health and Safety Law.

By following the **Best Practice**, risk can be reduced. Importantly when working with gas and torch there will **always be a risk of fire** so ensure that a **fit for purpose and up to date fire extinguisher is within easy reach** when soldering.



12 Steps to Minimising Risk

- ✓ Prior to use - read & follow instructions.
- ✓ Select correct torch & correct gas for the job.
- ✓ Do NOT modify, reengineer or disassemble.
- ✓ Check condition of vents, seals & threads.
- ✓ Connect cylinder to torch outside building.
- ✓ Keep Fire Extinguisher within reach.
- ✓ Wear correct Personal Protective Equipment.
- ✓ Protect surrounding areas when soldering.
- ✓ Keep away from children and pets.
- ✓ Do NOT leave torch and gas unattended
- ✓ Disconnect after use.
- ✓ Transport safely and disconnected.

Why does my torch tip get hot ?

The liquid gas inside the cylinder needs latent (hidden) heat through the walls of the cylinder to vaporize and turn into a gas. Prolonged use of the torch or use in cold surroundings makes the **vaporization process more difficult**. If the transformation from liquid to gas is getting insufficient heat via the cylinder walls then the **pressure of gas supplied drops** and the tip gets hot. Let the cylinder **warm up naturally** without any assistance and recommence the job when the cylinder is warmer.

Is it safe to use torches upside down ?

Many torches have anti-flare devices built in. This device is designed to stop the liquid gas in the cylinder reaching the combustion part of the torch. **Do not use the torch upside down for long periods.**

How long should my torch last ?

All products get dropped, knocked, bumped and degrade with normal use, wear and tear . A torch is an engineered & complicated product. **Never use a torch if you suspect it is damaged or blocked.**

MONUMENT TOOLS

Professional Quality Plumbing,
Roofing & Drainage Tools

