

IPEX System 15[®] with MJ Grey[™] Couplings Speeds Winnipeg Parkade Construction



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Roger Phaneuf

Estimator / Project Manager
Wes-Man Mechanical

In Winnipeg, Manitoba, the past few decades have seen the downtown area undergo major revitalization efforts with more than \$1.2 billion invested since 1999. At the corner of York Avenue and Donald Street, the development taking place in Winnipeg is evident as the former 21-floor Sheraton hotel is converted into 181 luxurious one- and two-bedroom suites that include panoramic views of the city.

Now known as The Residences on York, the new apartment complex is also home to one of Winnipeg’s finest restaurants – The Lobby on York. The final phase of the redevelopment involves construction of a 6-floor, 170-stall parkade for tenants and restaurant patrons. With Winnipeg’s average rainfall of 514 mm (20.2”) per year and a flat topography combined with substantial snowfall, proper storm water

drainage for this new parkade was essential. Thankfully, an easy-to-install PVC drainage system from IPEX helped to speed construction of the new parkade.

Fast becoming the norm in drain, waste and vent (DWV) applications, System 15[®] pipe and fittings from IPEX have emerged as a viable alternative to cast iron and copper. System 15 is a cost-effective pipe for the majority of low-rise and light commercial applications. Lighter than their traditional metal counterparts, System 15 is significantly easier to store, handle and install. With no special equipment needed to hoist up pipe during installation, System 15 can make what used to be an awkward two-man job now an easy one-man operation in smaller sizes, substantially lowering installation time and labour costs.

SYSTEM 15® DWV SYSTEM XFR® DWV

- » Meets code requirements for noncombustible buildings
- » Significantly lighter than cast iron
- » Easier to install
- » Corrosion resistant
- » High impact resistance
- » Improved flow

MJ GREY™ DWV

- » Available in 8", 10" & 12"
- » Fast and easy installation without solvent cement
- » Designed specifically for System 15 & System XFR DWV
- » Certified to CSA B602 & Listed to ULC 102.2-10 for Flame Spread Rating/Smoke Development Classification limits of 25/50
- » Stainless steel band with a grey rubber gasket

"Lightweight System 15 is much faster and easier to install than traditional cast iron, especially when you're dealing with heights like we were faced with on the York Avenue parkade project," says Roger Phaneuf, Estimator / Project Manager with Wes-Man Mechanical, the installation contractor for the parkade's drainage systems. "And because it's PVC, it's more durable than cast iron. It also comes in longer lengths, which is ideal for this type of large project. When running long straight lengths, there really is no comparison."

Made of tough, impact-resistant PVC, System 15 is extremely durable and requires virtually no maintenance, offering long-term cost benefits over the life of the system. Its excellent corrosion resistance will yield a more pleasing, aesthetic system that will look as good in twenty years as it does the day it is installed. Available in a wide range of diameters to meet virtually every DWV application, System 15's substantially lower roughness factor and larger inside diameter compared to metal systems allows for increased flow capacity, providing engineers with the versatility to design smaller, compact systems as needed.

For the drainage system at the new Winnipeg York Avenue Parkade, Graeson Wright, P.Eng. of G-Mech Engineering Inc. specified PVC. At that time, IPEX was in the process of developing the MJ Grey™ Coupling, a mechanical joint assembly for use with 8, 10 and 12-inch System 15® and System XFR® piping systems. The installation contractor found out about the new product and its several benefits over traditional solvent joints on larger diameter pipe.

"The specifying engineer is easy to work with and open minded to using approved solutions that are easier to install, which made it easy to introduce the new mechanical couplings for the parkade project," says Phaneuf. "This was our first experience using

mechanical couplings with PVC. We didn't have to be as exact and were able to easily make adjustments to the joints as needed. If you make a mistake with solvent, you have to remove the joint and start over. With the new MJ Grey Couplings, we just push on the rubber sleeve, adjust it to where we need to, and then add the stainless steel band."

Specifically designed for PVC, the System 15 MJ Grey Coupling includes a rubber inner sleeve that will not decay or deteriorate from contact with the flow or surrounding environment and an exterior stainless steel band with screw clamps. ULC listed to 25/50 for Flame Spread and Smoke Developed and certified to CSA B602, the MJ Grey Couplings make it simpler to install a PVC drainage system in colder weather when temperatures can be a challenge for solvent cementing. An easier joint alternative that reduces time and cost, the MJ Grey Couplings offer adjustability during and after installation—unlike solvent-cemented assemblies, they can be disconnected and reused to accommodate changes in system design.

For the York Avenue Parkade in Winnipeg, Wes-Man Mechanical installed System 15 throughout each of the eight floors to the parkade's main drainage stack. For smaller diameter System 15, solvent-cemented joints were used while the new MJ Grey Couplings were used on all 8 and 10-inch pipes. "They gave us exactly what we needed. The couplings were definitely worth it — we couldn't ask for better," says Phaneuf. "As long as it adheres to local codes, there is absolutely no reason why we wouldn't use System 15 from IPEX. It's all we know."



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