

# Product Application

## Installing a Suitable Beverage Chase Saves Time and Money

**O**n many construction projects the plans call for “beverage conduit” or “beverage chase.” It is not uncommon for contractors to pick a material that appears to meet the need while not really knowing the correct materials to install. Unknowingly, they will install a chase or conduit from point A to point B using inappropriate materials and that ultimately results in significant added cost.

The beverage industry has a set of requirements that are not widely known. At times even architects and foodservice consultants believe they have properly described the need in the plans and specifications, but fail to provide sufficient information to get the job installed correctly the first time. Unfortunately little information has been available until now.

For example, an improper installation at an airport concourse restaurant where the wrong materials were used ultimately resulted in a significant cost to the contractor. Figure 1 shows the heavy iron pipe installed with short radius elbows, which made pulling the beverage lines impossible. Because the chase had to be completely reworked, the restaurant was not able to open for several weeks



Figure 1 — The heavy pipe and short radius elbows shown in this photo had to be removed and replaced with the correct material for a beverage chase, at considerable cost.

after the scheduled opening at significant cost to the proprietor.

The beverage industry absolutely requires chase that provides long radius sweeping bends. Ideally a 30-inch or 36-inch radius bend is suitable for most applications. Beverage chases also must have joints that are smooth inside, with no sharp edges or

materials available simplifies the entire task. Aboveground applications of beverage chase should ideally be installed using 4-inch, 6-inch or 8-inch chase for liquor, soda or beer as appropriate. Long sweep bends in 90, 45, 30, and 22.5 degree need to be a minimum of 24-inch, and ideally 30-inch or 36-inch, radius. The

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bumps. The reason for that is that installers must be able to easily pull a trunk line through the chase that delivers the cold draft beer or soda to the faucet. These trunk lines sometimes have copper glycol coolant lines incorporated into them to keep beer cold from the keg to the faucet. While flexible, the trunk line is extremely difficult, and at times impossible, to pull through an improperly constructed chase with short radius elbows.

Having the correct beverage chase

system must incorporate a leak-proof joint.

All parties involved will save time and money by identifying and procuring a packaged system that has all of the correct parts and pieces, rather than shopping each individual component that may or may not be compatible. Having a system that fits together and is easy to install is key to reducing the contractor's overall labor cost. Further, a system that is augmented with a set of installation

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Figure 2 — The Ford Field project incorporates the latest BeverageCHASE™ Systems technology. Components are available in a wide variety of sizes and degree of bend to accommodate most needs. Custom bends are also available.

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tools designed to simplify and speed the install is another significant advantage that adds to the "reduced costs" column for the contractor.

Figure 2 shows a recent installation at the new Ford Field / Lions Stadium in Detroit, Mich. This photo shows properly installed chase with leak proof-joints that also add structural integrity. Each joint is smooth inside, leak-proof and provides significant structural integrity. (Average pull to separation test conducted by 3M Corporation: 575 pounds in a simple pluck test on these joints.)

Firms involved in the installation of the example Ford Field Project are COLOMBO Sales & Engineering of Ferndale, Mich., provider of the BeverageCHASE™ Systems, and inventor of the COLOMBO Leak-Proof / StructuralJOIN™ (patent pending). Also involved is the installation team of plumbers from Metro Industrial Pipe, a Detroit-based firm subcontracting to COLOMBO. □

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