

✓ What is meant by concealed?

Water fittings considered to be concealed include those:

- Buried in the ground
- Installed below or embedded in floors
- Installed in or behind wall finishes

Water fittings considered not to be concealed include those:

- Installed below ground but not buried, such as in a chamber or basement room
- Installed below floors or in walls which can be readily accessed

✓ Can fittings with operational functions be concealed?

To prevent waste there needs to be provision to access any joints or water fittings which require maintenance, such as backflow prevention devices, valves which control the flow and any other operational fitting.

Joints on concealed pipework are likely to lose their integrity over time and therefore should only be considered where unavoidable.

✓ Are the pipe and fittings to be used of an appropriate quality and standard, and suitable for installation?

Pipe and fittings should conform to either the Regulators Specification or a British Standard and be corrosion resistant.

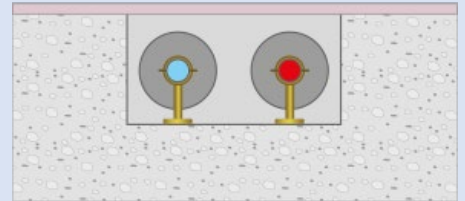
Any metallic fittings which are not going to be readily accessible should be manufactured from materials which are not susceptible to dezincification such as gunmetal or CR brass.

✓ How should concealed fittings be installed in floors?

All domestic hot and cold water system pipework concealed within floors should:

- Be installed with a minimum number of joints. This is because joints are prone to a loss of integrity over time and therefore should only be considered where unavoidable.

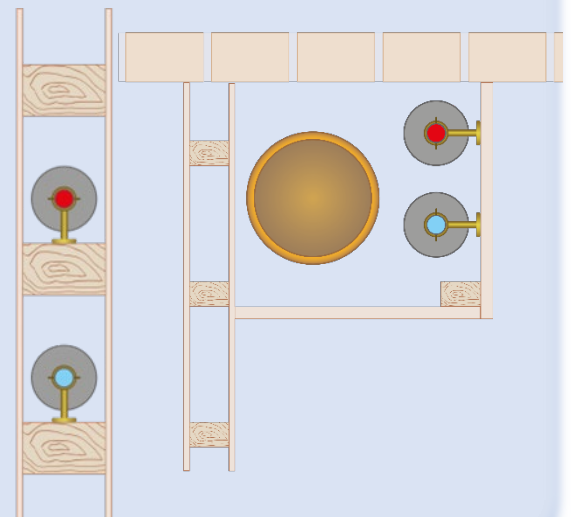
- Be installed in a chase/duct or void. Wrapping pipework in insulation is not an acceptable method of ducting.
- Be appropriately clipped to avoid water hammer and other stresses which would affect the integrity of the installation.
- Be insulated with a suitable gap maintained between the cold water, hot water and any other heat source to prevent heat transfer or loss.
- Not embedded or come into contact with other materials such as backfill, screed or cement.
- Be accessible to enable inspection and replacement. Further information about accessibility can be found in BS 8558.



How should concealed fittings be installed in walls?

All domestic hot and cold water system pipework concealed within walls should:

- Be installed with a minimum number of joints. This is because joints are prone to a loss of integrity over time and therefore should only be considered where unavoidable.
- Be installed in a chase/duct or void. Wrapping pipework in insulation is not an acceptable method of ducting or passing through a chimney is not an acceptable method of ducting.
- With the agreement of the local water undertaker pipework may be installed alongside other services in a shared duct.
- Be appropriately clipped to avoid water hammer and other stresses which would affect the integrity of the installation.
- Be insulated with a suitable gap maintained between the cold water, hot water and any other heat source to prevent heat transfer or loss.
- Not be embedded or come into contact with other materials such as plaster or cement.
- Be accessible to enable inspection and replacement. Further information about accessibility can be found in BS 8558.



Opposite are images illustrating domestic hot and cold water systems concealed in a wall and a soil pipe duct.

Please note other requirements apply refer to the Guidance published by Water Regs UK for further information

<https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/>

