

Plastic instead of concrete: Ceresana examines the European market for plastic pipes



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Pipes should last a long time, avoid that waste water or chemicals seep away, but at the same time be easy to handle. This is why plastic – instead of metal or concrete – is increasingly used in piping systems. “The price of raw materials, like steel or copper, does also play a crucial role,” explains Oliver Kutsch, CEO of Ceresana Research. The market research institute has scrutinized the European plastic pipe market from top to bottom.

Plastic in domestic applications

While two thirds of all sewers in Europe are still made of concrete or vitrified clay, plastic pipes are already more frequently used than metal pipes in home sanitary installations. The most popular material for plastic pipes is polyvinyl chloride (PVC) with a 45% share, followed by polyethylene with 36%. Ceresana Research expects that especially polypropylene will be increasingly used over the next years, whereas the use of PVC will stagnate.

Eastern Europe is catching up

Since the East European infrastructure networks have to be expanded, the demand for plastic pipes in this region is growing stronger than in the West. In Eastern Europe, sales of PVC pipes are still rising, while only better quality pipes made of polyethylene or polypropylene record growth rates on the relatively saturated markets in Western Europe. Ceresana Research expects that revenues from plastic pipes in Europe will rise to €9.7 billion by 2018.

Essential pipes

In Western Europe, about half of all plastic pipes are used for sewage disposal. In Eastern Europe, sewage disposal only accounts for one third of the demand for plastic pipes. Applications in drinking water and gas supply are of greater importance in this region. The largest share of the European plastic pipe market is accounted for by Germany with 14%, followed by Spain, France, Italy, and Turkey.

Informative market report

The Ceresana Research market study in two volumes analyzes in detail the plastic pipe market in 30 European countries. The separately analyzed fields of application are water and gas supply pipes as well as pipes for agriculture and industry. Further important fields include cable protection, geothermal systems, district heating, and household applications. The clearly arranged index of producers lists 135 profiles of pipe manufacturers. A concise overview provides the most important information on the different pipe types, plastic grades, manufacturing processes, joining techniques, and legal situations. The report, available in English or German, forecasts market opportunities and risk until 2018:

www.ceresana.com/en/market-studies/industry/plastic-pipes/

About Ceresana Research

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