

CIRCULAR CONSTRUCTION:

Stainless steel drains are widely recycled

When it comes to circular construction, drainage products from BLÜCHER have a strong place in the market. These stainless steel products consist of up to 85% recycled materials and are a pure product free from surface coatings of other materials.

In the circular economy, there is good reason to focus on the products that are used in both the construction industry and the engineering sector. This particularly applies to all the pipes that are incorporated into structures and buried underground.

There are products which are more difficult and unprofitable to turn into new products. It is therefore also important to focus on products which are actually made from recycled raw materials, instead of solely focussing on products that can perhaps be developed for recycling on a larger scale.

Sins of the past

As the circular economy is based on the recycling of materials which may have been part of a building for many years, it is also necessary to look at the properties that the products had at the time the building was erected. Most people know of course that it is important to determine whether a roof contains asbestos before starting to demolish a building. There are also other materials which could be used in circular construction, which were perhaps permitted at the time the building was erected but are now prohibited. Chemicals and products containing lead have in the past been used in taps, covers and some types of drainage pipes. These are materials which should not be recycled, and this is something that the EU is also currently looking at.

Stainless is circular

“In fact, as a supplier of stainless drainage solutions, we fit perfectly with circular thinking, because in addition to having a very long lifetime, stainless steel can also be used over and over again. It is also an important factor that stainless steel has a market value as a used material, which supports recycling and the infrastructure that is used to recover the steel for recycling,” says Palle Madsbjerg, Business Development Manager at BLÜCHER. He adds that, according to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, 90% of all stainless steel is recovered and recycled.

Minimal waste

BLÜCHER also offers a range of pipes with a wide variety of lengths, which reduces offcuts and scrap. When dimensioning using BIM (Building Information Modelling) and the Revit system, pipes can be defined very precisely, avoiding surplus products which must be discarded or returned.

“As Danish building regulations and Danish developers impose increasingly strict requirements regarding the circular economy, it is becoming ever more important to consider the type of pipes that should be used in a building in order to avoid dragging down the greenhouse gas inventory for the construction project,” says Palle Madsbjerg.

Fire rating A1

BLÜCHER's drains are also a good choice when it comes to safety. This is because they have fire rating A1, eliminating the need to fit fire sleeves, with all the disadvantages that this entails. In the same way, no toxic fumes are generated. Such fumes can be fatal, not to mention dangerous in areas such as hospitals where patients can only be evacuated with great difficulty. BLÜCHER is working hard to obtain the approvals that can document the green properties of the company's products in an even better way. However, as is the case with some approved green construction projects, the challenge is that there is simply no requirement to install stainless steel drainage pipework systems, because stainless steel as a material is not widely seen as a green construction product.

More information: Palle Madsbjerg, Business Development Manager, BLÜCHER. Tel. +45 2485 7429, e-mail: pm@blucher.com