WHAT CONDUIT IS: METAL AND PVC

WHAT IS CONDUIT ACTUALLY FOR?

WHAT CONDUIT IS

Conduit is a method of installing wiring: a **tube** fixed to the building that cables are **drawn into** afterwards, so they're contained neatly and protected. It's one type of **containment** (trunking is another). Conduit comes in two materials, **metal** and **plastic (PVC)**, and these notes cover both.

These notes follow the practical steps: how to **cut**, **bend** and **thread** conduit, and how the fittings go together.

> **Where the rules live**For the factors a conduit installation has to follow, read **Chapter 52 of BS 7671** (selection and erection of wiring systems). It covers things an installer must think about when putting together a conduit system, such as **external influences** (heat, water, impact, corrosion and so on).

BS 7671 · Part 5 · Chapter 52 · wiring systems (incl. external influences)

READ THIS FOR EVERYTHING AN INSTALLER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT CONDUIT

METAL AND PVC CONDUIT

Metal conduit

- Ours is **galvanised steel**: steel with a galvanised (zinc) coating, so it **can be installed outside**.
- You can also get **black enamel-coated** steel and **stainless steel** conduit.
- Usually supplied **threaded at both ends**, with a **coupler** already screwed on one end.

PVC conduit

- Plastic, in **white**, **black**, red and other colours.
- Very **light** and much **cheaper** to buy and work with.
- **Not threaded**. Everything is **push-fit** and glued.

Both come in various sizes. The two you'll meet most are **20 mm** and **25 mm**, and the tools (bender formers, dies, bending springs) are made to match each size.

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