



What Are Pitch Fibre Pipes?

Pitch fibre pipes are made from a combination of wood cellulose and inert coal tar pitch. They were commonly used in properties built between the 1950s and 1970s, particularly in housing estates, schools, and hospitals.

Initially, they seemed appealing due to their lighter weight and cost-effectiveness compared to clay pipes.

Known Problems with Pitch Fibre Systems.

Unfortunately, pitch fibre pipes have several drawbacks:

Structural Vulnerability: These pipes are prone to collapsing under external pressure, and their walls are more susceptible to root ingress than modern drainage systems.

Delamination: Exposure to hot water, fat, oil, and grease causes the wood cellulose and coal tar layers to delaminate, leading to internal blistering and significant pipe wall deformation.

Limited Lifespan: Even under the best conditions, pitch fibre systems have a lifespan of only around 40 years, making them a maintenance challenge.

Insurance Reluctance: Many insurance companies hesitate to cover the cost of pitch fibre pipe repair due to their reputation as inherently defective drain systems.