

WELD-ON®

THE WORLD'S MOST TRUSTED BOND

WHY PRIMER IS IMPORTANT FOR STRONG, RELIABLE SOLVENT WELDS

UNDERSTANDING THE ROLE OF PRIMER IN PVC AND CPVC BONDING



When it comes to achieving strong, reliable pipe joints, solvent welding is only as effective as the steps that go into it. One of the most frequently overlooked yet critical steps is the use of primer. Whether you're working with PVC or CPVC piping systems, it's important to know why primer can make all the difference in performance, longevity, and code compliance.

What Is Primer and What Does It Do?

Primer is a preparatory agent used before applying solvent cement. Its job is twofold: it removes dirt, oil, and surface gloss from the pipe and fitting, and it begins the critical process of softening the material's surface. This softening effect is essential. Without it, the solvent cement may not properly fuse the joint surfaces, potentially leading to weak bonds or system failure under pressure.

Why Primer Matters

Using primer is not just a best practice—it's often a requirement. Many plumbing codes, including the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and the International Plumbing Code (IPC), mandate the use of primer when working with PVC and CPVC. Primer promotes stronger joint integrity by ensuring the solvent cement penetrates the material more effectively. It helps create a deeper, more uniform fusion between the pipe and fitting, reducing the risk of leaks and long-term failure. In short, primer plays a vital role in delivering a durable, high-performance bond that holds up under pressure.

Weld-On's line of primers, such as P-68 Primer, industrial-grade P-70 Primer and the new P-68 UV Glow Primer are formulated to maximize bond strength and meet code requirements in even the most demanding applications.

When Should You Use Primer?

Primer is essential when working with pressure-rated PVC or CPVC systems, such as potable water lines, irrigation systems, or industrial fluid transport. It helps eliminate surface contaminants and prepares the material for a secure chemical bond. Most plumbing codes, including the UPC and IPC, require the use of primer in these applications to ensure long-term joint integrity and system performance.

In certain non-pressure or DWV (drain, waste, vent) applications, primer may not be required—especially when using a specialty solvent cement formulated to work without it. Weld-On offers advanced primerless options such as Flowguard Gold CPVC cement designed for these specific applications. However, it's important to check product instructions and confirm compliance with local codes before omitting primer from your process.

When in doubt, use primer. It adds minimal time to the job but provides maximum assurance that your connections will hold strong over time.

How to Apply Primer Properly

1. Cut and deburr the pipe. Make sure it's clean and dry before starting.
2. Apply primer to the inside of the fitting and the outside of the pipe using a suitable applicator, such as the Weld-On SuperSwab or Super Dauber.
3. Apply solvent cement immediately while the surfaces are still wet with primer.
4. Join the pipe and fitting with a quarter-turn twist and hold them in place until the joint sets.

For step-by-step instructions, safety tips, and detailed technical guidance, visit the Weld-On Tech Tips page at weldon.com/product-literature/tech-tips.

Primer Sets the Stage for Long-Term Success

Primer is not just another step in the process—it's a safeguard for your installation. When used correctly, it helps deliver cleaner, stronger joints that stand up to pressure and time.

For more best practices, product education, and hands-on guidance, visit the Weld-On Solvent Cement **Professional Training Hub** at www.weldon.com/traininghub. Whether you're new to solvent welding or looking to refine your technique, our training resources are designed to help you solvent cement weld with confidence and skill.

For more information visit www.weldon.com to learn more about our primer products.