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When is using “used pipe” the right choice for you?

At Macksteel, we get asked many questions about pipe, and while we always enjoy talking about steel with all our customers, we thought it would be helpful to write down some basic information, and post it on our website for everyone to see. We hope you will find this information useful.



Every year, Macksteel sells thousands of tons of both used and new pipe. Used pipe (commonly called well pipe, oil field pipe, drill stem, well casing, etc) is available in many sizes, including the most common outside diameter (OD) sizes being 1.66”, 1.9”, 2-1/16”, 2-3/8”, 2-7/8”, 3-1/2”, and 4-1/2”. Availability of these sizes of pipe is very good. We would always recommend using used pipe when building corrals, fences, posts, and gates. Keep in mind however, that used pipe does not paint very well, but with some extra work, a decent paint finish can be achieved. Another concern with using used pipe is Weldability. Weldability is typically reduced due primarily to the higher levels of rust, and some used pipe is highly magnetic, requiring high levels of heat to produce good welds. If working with used pipe is not your bag, then for a little more money, new pipe is always an option.

New pipe is always available, and the size range offered covers every size and wall thickness imaginable. New pipe should be used when a high quality painted finish is required. New pipe is very easy to weld since it should be free of rust. One thing you should consider when buying new pipe is the wall thickness. You will often hear the term “schedule” used when talking about pipe. Schedule basically refers to wall thickness. In each pipe size, the higher the schedule number, the thicker the wall. The thicker the wall is, the stronger the pipe. We always recommend that you ask for the actual wall thickness of pipe that you are buying, rather than purchasing pipe based on schedule.

If you ever have any questions, give us call. We will always do what we can to help.

The Macksteel Sales Team