

# RELEASE



British Plastics Federation  
**PIPES GROUP**

PRESS

5 March 2024

## **UPDATED AAV GUIDANCE AVAILABLE FROM BPF PIPES GROUP**

The BPF Pipes Group's guidance on air admittance valves (AAV) is one of its most downloaded reference documents, and now it has been updated to make designing and installing AAVs even simpler.

As a free-to-access and practical resource, the latest AAV guidance covers all of the previous work but updates several references, includes clearer diagrams and clarifies some wording to ensure the latest approved guidance is accurately followed. It has already proven a handy reference for designers, housebuilders and building control bodies – indeed for anyone working within the building drainage sector – and as one of the most comprehensive documents on AAVs is constantly being accessed from the BPF Pipes Group website at [www.bfppipesgroup.com](http://www.bfppipesgroup.com)

Air admittance valves have been in use for around 45 years but are an often-overlooked technology as they are out of sight in roof voids and lofts, but they perform a vital role in the effective drainage of today's homes.

AAVs ventilate soil and waste pipes so that waste water drains properly from a property. Without ventilation, air pressure changes inside the pipework due to the operation of domestic appliances would cause waste traps on those appliances to lose their water seals, creating unpleasant odours. Traditionally, open soil stacks have been positioned above the roofs of properties but can be damaged or

accidentally covered, for example when extensions are built. Air admittance valves, positioned inside the roof space, provide a more aesthetically attractive alternative to open stacks whilst providing the same level of ventilation.

The BPF guidance contents cover how to position air admittance valves correctly, with new diagrams showing where they can be used alone to vent properties – or where additional ventilation may be needed in the form of open vents (traditional open soil stacks). The guidance also highlights the different regulations currently in place across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Operation, ventilation, capacity, ratings and location are all covered, and a building control checklist is provided to help those installing such devices in domestic properties.

The BPF Pipes Group ran a webinar on AAVs based on version 1 of the guidance and will be updating this in the coming weeks.

Steve Skeldon of the BPF Pipes Group commented: “Our AAV guidance has been consistently popular since we first introduced it in 2018, and this updated version will provide even more clarity and help to all those involving in plumbing and venting drainage systems in new build or refurbishment projects. This has now become the definitive guide to AAVs.”

The BPF Pipes Group strives to promote best practice across the plumbing and construction industry and continually reviews its guidance documents.