



18 - Pneumatic Test Balls

Q – What is the difference between a Test Ball and a Muni Ball?

- **Test Ball and Muni Ball are trademarked names. A test ball does not have a bypass and it is designed to do one job, blocking (sealing) a pipe. A Muni Ball has a bypass tube that runs through the plug that allows the user to bypass effluent through the tube, or with an adapter cap, it can be converted to complete an air test. Muni Balls can also be used for blocking pipe as well.**

Q – What is the shelf life for Cherne pneumatic plugs?

- **Cherne offers a 2 year warranty on all pneumatic plugs from date of manufacture, (plugs are post-dated by six months to allow for shelf time). If kept in controlled conditions (not exposed to sunlight and kept at temperatures between 0-125 degrees F) the pneumatic plugs remain in good condition for a longer period of time. Plugs should always be inspected for visual damage prior to every use.**

Q – How do I read the date code on Cherne test balls and plugs?

- **Date codes on small test balls/long balls are two digit numbers (ex. 14). Date codes are changed each year on July 1st. Plugs manufactured on/after July 1st will bear the last two digits of the next year (ex. Plug manufactured on July 1st, 2014 would have a date code of 15). Larger plugs have the date codes stamped on the front of the plug. It will begin with the year, followed by a letter indicating the month, followed by a number for the day, and a letter for the unit produced. Example for a plug manufactured on February 14th, 2015 would read 15B14A**

Q – What are the maximum temperature limits that a Cherne pneumatic pipe plug handle?

- **Normal maximum temperature = 125° F. Normal minimum temperature = 0° F. Consult factory if you wish to use plug at temperatures outside this range.**

Q – What type of rubber is a Cherne pneumatic plugs made from?

- **All of Cherne's pneumatic pipe plugs are made from natural rubber. The only exception is our yellow pillow plugs which are made from a polyurethane impregnated fabric.**

Q – How is it determined what size plug should be used?

- **The first step is to determine the ID (inside diameter) of the pipe that will be plugged, and then choose the plug that matches the ID of the pipe for that application. Some of our Cherne plugs can be used for multiple sizes of pipe, but they should only be used when the size range of the plug is being used on a pipe which falls within that range. When in doubt, call the customer service help desk.**

Q – Does Cherne offer chemical resistant plugs?

- **Cherne Urethane pillow plugs, Well Monitor plug and the Petro Econ-O-Grip can be used with most hydrocarbons. Contact Cherne engineering for specific applications.**

Q – What is the difference between a Long Ball and a MS-2 Long Ball?

- **Both our original long ball and our MS2 Long Balls are designed to seal wye fittings while conducting a sewer test. The MS2 Long Ball is unique as it features a relief valve, is multi-size, and inflates and deflates in stages to keep the work area dry by keeping the water from coming up through the pipe riser during the deflation process.**

Q – Can Cherne plugs be used on elliptical pipe?

- **Yes. Cherne publishes a chart that pairs up our pneumatic pipe plugs with some of the most popular sizes of elliptical pipes. It can be found on Cherne's website at <http://www.cherneind.com/Data/>**

Q – What size plugs is repairable and which plugs are not repairable?

- **Generally speaking pneumatic plugs that do not have sealing rings may be eligible for patching. The damage to the plug cannot be any longer than 4 inches, or deep enough to penetrate the cording. Plugs cannot be patched more than 4 times. Other repairs can be made as well, like replacing inflatable bladders, bypass hoses, castings and fittings. When in doubt, ask the customer to take a few digital pictures of the damaged area and email it to you. Forward the pictures by email to the Cherne QA Department along with a brief description of the damage for final determination.**

Q – How often should a pneumatic plug pressure be checked?

- **Inflation pressure should be checked a minimum of once every 4 hours while a pneumatic plug is in use.**

Q – How is the Muni-Ball (bypass plug) converted for air testing?

- **The bypass cap or plug is removed and replaced with an Air Loc Conversion Kit.**

Q – Which inflatable plugs are repairable?

- **There are patch kits available for Urethane plugs. Other plugs that can be patched or have the bag replaced, are as follows; 15"-30" / 24"-42" / 20"-40" / 24"-48" / 24"-60" / 48"-72" and 54"-96"**

Q – What is the definition for feet of head?

- **Feet of head is the height of water over the center line of the plug.**

Q – How long can a Cherne pneumatic plug be expected to stay in good condition?

- **This answer depends on how the plug is maintained. If the instructions are followed in the Cherne Safety Instruction Manual, it is not unusual for the plug to last for many years. If the instructions are not followed, a plug can be destroyed during the first use. Cherne pneumatic plugs come with a 2 year warranty from date of manufacture.**

Q – Is there a formula used to calculate backpressure?

- **Backpressure is defined in PSI (pound per square inch) or feet of head.**
 - **Simply read the gauge pressure for PSI.**
 - **For feet of head, calculate height of water over the centerline of the plug.**
Example; 100' line at 1% slope with a 10' manhole $(100 \times .01) + 10 = 11$ feet of head.

Q – Why is it important to know pounds of force calculation?

- **This calculation is important to the end user and helps them understand the forces behind the plug so that they can decide the proper way block the plug.**

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