Cost Comparison between Argweld® Quick-Purge Systems and Pre-Formed Paper Dams

Recently pre-formed paper purge dams such as the "EZ-Purge" have been promoted as low-cost options for pipe purging when welding stainless steel pipe. The following is a material (hard goods) cost-comparison between pre-formed paper dams and the Argweld® Quick-Purge™ systems, with conservative examples of 50 – 100 welds for each Quick-Purge™ system.

18" Pipe

Pre-Formed Water Soluble Paper Purge Dams:

- Average retail price is $490.83 for a package of 24
- 2 dams per weld = 12 welds per package
- $490.83 / 12 welds = **$40.90 per weld**

Quick-Purge™:

- Average retail price is $1469.00
- Re-usable
- $1,469.00 / 50 welds = **$29.38 per weld ($11.52 savings per weld)**
- $1,469.00 / 100 welds = **$14.69 per weld ($26.21 savings per weld)**

24" Pipe

Pre-Formed Water Soluble Paper Purge Dams:

- Average retail price is $1,120.30 for a package of 24
- 2 dams per weld = 12 welds
- $1,120.30 / 12 welds = **$93.35 per weld**

Quick-Purge™:

- Average retail price is $1,956.00
- Re-usable
- $1,956.00 / 50 welds = **$39.12 per weld ($54.23 savings per weld!)**
- $1,956.00 / 100 welds = **$19.56 per weld ($73.79 savings per weld!)**

30" Pipe

Pre-Formed Water Soluble Paper Purge Dams:

- Average retail price is $2,644.98 for a package of 24
- 2 dams per weld = 12 welds per package
- $2,644.98 / 12 welds = **$220.42 per weld**

Quick-Purge™:

- Average retail price is $2,332.00
- Re-usable
- $2,332.00 / 50 welds = **$46.64 per weld ($173.78 savings per weld!)**
- $2,332.00 / 100 welds = **$23.32 per weld ($197.10 savings per weld!)**

The above figures reflect only the savings of the actual purging equipment used. Once the set-up time for the paper dams and the increased gas consumption that is used with paper dams are figured into the equation, the savings offered by Quick-Purge™ systems become staggering. For example, a 12" pipe can be purged to less than 1 % O2 in roughly 2 minutes with Quick-Purge™!