
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™!