

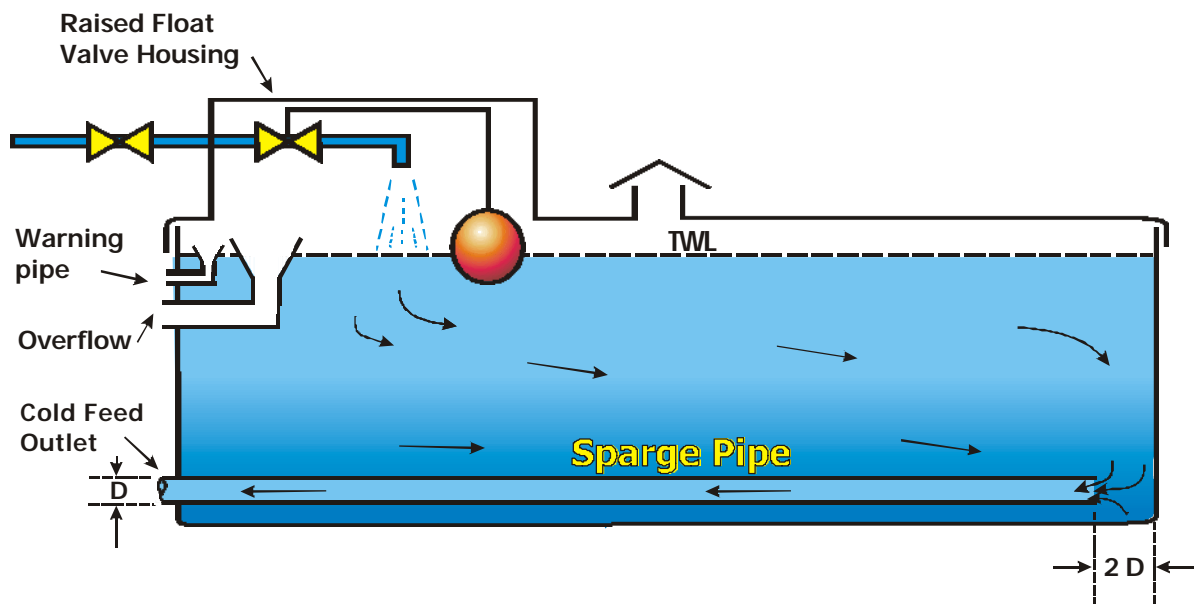
# Sparge Pipes –

## The Ins and Outs

Ian McCrone BSc. C Eng. M I Mech. E., Chairman ATCM



**A Sparge Pipe - a device used to achieve optimum circulation of water stored within a tank or cistern.**



Its application is generally reserved for installations where space around a tank is restricted. Reasonable access to the tank side directly opposite the Mains Inlet is not available.

It could be such locations as a loft area, basement alcove, plant room, etc.

The **Regulations** require *“every storage cistern is to be so installed as to minimise the risk of contamination of stored water. The cistern shall be of appropriate size, and the pipe connections to the cistern shall be so positioned, as to allow free circulation and to prevent areas of stagnant water from developing.”* (Schedule 2.16.5 refers)

If access around a tank is so restricted that it is not possible to install the Cold Feed Outlet at the opposite end from the Mains Supply Inlet the installation of a **Sparge Pipe** is a simple but effective solution. This fitting ensures full and free circulation within the tank is achieved.

In essence, a **Sparge Pipe** is a continuation of the external Cold Feed Outlet Pipe passing directly into the tank from the accessible side and generally directly below the Mains Inlet.

This internal pipe is taken as close as practical to the opposite end of the tank, (say, leaving two pipe diameters clearance) and has an unrestricted open end.

Its function is clearly demonstrated by the illustration above. Incoming water is forced to travel to the tank's opposite end before being able to exit via the internal Cold Feed pipe. Thus providing maximum circulation and the prevention of areas of stagnation.

Most assuredly, due to its length, this pipe will require appropriate stayed support from the tank base to prevent sag and undue strain being transmitted to the Tank structure.

Copyright 