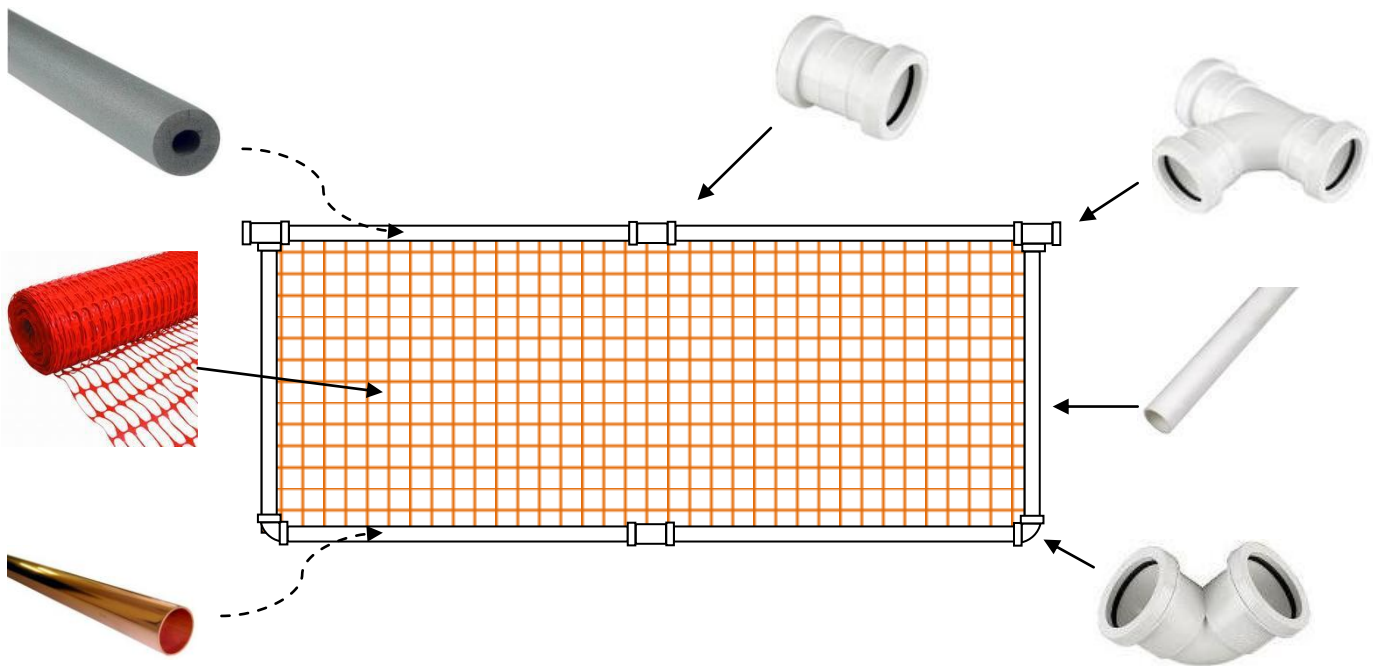


Building Lifesaving Obstacles by David Fielding

This short guide to building Lifesaving Obstacles, also known as gates, was written by David Fielding:

Total cost of the gate was £17ish...

- 2 * 3m Lengths of 35mm Diameter Waste Pipe
- 2 * 90 Degree Bends
- 2 * In-Line (Straight) Joints
- 2 * T-Junctions
- 2 * 1m lengths of pipe insulation
- 1/3 * 3m Length of 22mm copper pipe
- 2m of Garden Sunshade or Orange Safety Fencing



Top Tips...

*Measure everything twice! According to the [International Life Saving Federation](#), swimming obstacles should be 70 cm (± 1 cm) deep. Remember that the joints will add some extra depth/length to your gate, so your upright tubes will need to be slightly shorter than 70cms to take this into account.

*I used a T-junction to form the corners at the top of my gate (instead of a 90 degree bend). The T-junction hooks over the lane ropes and can be secured in place with elastic bungee. I guess if you had several gates you could connect them together across the pool using short lengths of pipe between the T-junctions.

*I stuffed the top tube with lengths of pipe insulation to make it float. You need to compress the pipe insulation by wrapping sticky tape around it (Otherwise it's too wide to fit inside the top tube). This prevents water flooding the top tube and stops your gate sinking. Some people like to fill the top tube with expanding aerosol foam, but I find it very messy (the foam expands as it dries and shoots out of the ends of the tube)!

*The lanes at my pool are 190cms wide, so I made my gate collapsible by putting an in-line joint in the centre of the top and bottom tubes. This can be disconnected to split the gate into 1m long lengths.

*A 1m long length of 22mm copper pipe is sufficient to weight the gate down and hold it vertical in the water. But, copper is expensive - if you have more time I'm sure you could find something cheaper to weight the gate (Or try scrap metal merchants for second hand copper pipe).

*You can buy orange mesh at Toolstation. It comes in 25m long rolls, so the best way to get hold of it may be to approach other lifesaving clubs that have made their own gates and see if they've got any mesh left!

Hope this helps any clubs that are intending to make gates in the future!