

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION**

**IA-46 TILE DRAINS FOR LAND DRAINAGE**

**1. SCOPE**

The work shall consist of furnishing and installing drainage tubing and tile and the necessary fittings and appurtenances.

**2. MATERIALS**

Concrete drain tile shall conform to the requirements of ASTM C 412 and clay drain tile shall conform to the requirements of ASTM C 4.

Corrugated polyethylene tubing and fittings shall conform to ASTM F 405 or F 667, as appropriate. Corrugated profile wall polyethylene (PE) pipe shall conform to ASTM F 2648. Perforated tubing shall have a water inlet area of at least 1 square inch per foot, provided by perforations spaced uniformly along the long axis of the tubing. The perforations shall be circular or slots. Circular perforations shall not exceed 3/16 inch in diameter. Slots shall not be more than 1/8 inch wide.

**3. EXCAVATION**

Unless otherwise specified, excavation for and subsequent installation of each drain line shall begin at the outlet end and progress upstream.

The trench or excavation for the tile shall be constructed to the line, depths, cross-sections, and grade shown on the drawings or as directed by the NRCS Inspector. If not otherwise shown on the drawings, trench width at the top of the drain should be the minimum required to permit installation and provide bedding conditions suitable to support the load on the drain but with not less than 3 inches of clearance on each side of the drain.

Trench shields, shoring and bracing, or other methods, necessary to safeguard the workers and work, and to prevent damage to the existing improvements shall be furnished, placed, and subsequently removed by the contractor.

Plow installation is allowed. Minimum trench width shall be 2 inches wider than the conduit. Grade control and bedding conditions shall be closely inspected during plow installation. Boulders, cobbles, or cemented soils can cause the plow to jump and lose grade. These hardpoints can also puncture or dimple and deform the pipe.

**4. PREPARING THE BEDDING**

Unless otherwise specified, no filter or envelope is required. In stable soils, the bottom of the trench shall be shaped to form a semicircular, trapezoidal, or 90-degree "V" groove in its center. The groove shall be shaped to fit the size of tile. The 90-degree "V" groove shall not be used on conduits greater than 8 inches in diameter.

If the bottom of the trench does not provide a sufficiently stable or firm foundation for the drain tile, a sand-gravel mix or other approved materials shall be used to stabilize the bottom of the trench.

Drain tile shall not be laid on a rock foundation. In the event that boulders, rock or ledge rock or cemented materials that prevent satisfactory bedding are encountered at the required grade, the trench shall be excavated to a depth of at least 6 inches below grade and backfilled to grade with a sand-gravel mixture or other approved material.

## **5. FILTER OR ENVELOPE MATERIAL**

When a filter is specified, the shape of the bottom of the trench, gradation and the thickness of the filter or envelope material to be placed around the tile will be as shown on the drawings. The envelope or filter material shall be placed in the bottom of the trench just prior to the laying of the tile. The tile shall then be laid and the envelope or filter material placed over the tile.

## **6. PLACEMENT AND JOINT CONNECTIONS**

All drains shall be laid to grade.

Joints between lateral concrete and clay drain tiles shall vary with soil type as follows:

- a. Peat and muck - 1/4 inch preferred, 3/8 inch maximum
- b. Clay - 1/8 inch preferred, 1/4 inch maximum
- c. Silt and loam - 1/16 inch preferred, 1/8 inch maximum
- d. Sand - tightest possible fit.

Joints between main drain tile, which serve only to collect and transport drainage water from lateral tile lines, should be the tightest fit possible.

Where the joint width exceeds the maximum above, the joint shall be covered with a permanent type material such as coal tar pitch treated roofing paper, fiber glass sheet or mat, or plastic sheet.

After placement and blinding of plastic tubing, but prior to backfilling, sufficient time shall elapse to allow the tubing to reach the ambient temperature of the trench. All split fittings shall be securely tied with nylon cord before backfill is placed. When corrugated plastic tubing is used, no more than 5% stretch will be allowed.

## **7. CONNECTIONS**

Lateral connections will be made with manufactured appurtenances (wyes, tees, etc.) comparable in strength and durability with the specified tile or tubing unless otherwise shown on the drawings.

Existing tile lines not shown on the drawings but encountered during installation shall be bridged across the trench or connected into the new line, as directed by NRCS.

Connections with the outlet pipe shall be made watertight.

## **8. OUTLETS**

A continuous section of non-perforated conduit at least 20 feet long shall be used at the outlet. Two-thirds of the outlet pipe shall be buried in the ditch bank, and the cantilever section must extend to the toe of the ditch side slope or the side slope protected from erosion. Acceptable materials for use at the outlet include the following:

- a. Corrugated metal pipe, galvanized or aluminum, 16 gauge;
- b. Smooth steel pipe with a minimum wall thickness of 3/16 inch;
- c. Smooth plastic pipe, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), with a SDR of 26 or less or schedule 40 or heavier; or
- d. Dual wall corrugated polyethylene pipe (PE).

All plastic (PVC) and polyethylene pipe (PE) outlets shall include an ultra-violet stabilizer. PVC and PE pipe outlets shall not be used where burning vegetation on the outlet ditch bank is likely to create a fire hazard.

The outlet shall be equipped with a flap-gate type rodent guard.

## **9. BLINDING**

After the tubing or tile is placed in the excavated groove, friable material from the sides of the trench shall be placed around the tubing, completely filling the trench to a depth of not less than three inches over the top of the tubing. For material to be suitable it must not contain hard clods, rocks, frozen soil, or fine material which will cause a silting hazard to the drain. Tubing placed during any one day shall be blinded by the end of the day's work.

## **10. BACKFILLING**

The backfilling of the trench shall be completed as rapidly as consistent with the soil conditions. Automatic backfilling machines may be used. Backfill shall extend above the ground surface and be well rounded over the trench.

## **11. SPECIAL SPECIFICATIONS**