

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

**620 – UNDERGROUND OUTLET**

**1. SCOPE**

Details of construction shown in the design and plan, but not included here, shall be considered as a part of this specification.

**2. TRENCH CONSTRUCTION**

Trench width at any point below the top of the pipe should be only wide enough to permit the pipe to be easily placed and joined and to allow the initial backfill material to be uniformly placed under the haunches and sides of the pipe. The minimum trench width shall be not be less than twelve (12) inches unless the trench is precision excavated with a semicircular bottom that closely fits the pipe and the width does not exceed the outside diameter of the pipe by more than 10 percent. Trench banks that are more than five (5) feet high shall be shored or sloped.

Where rock, hardpan, cobbles or other hard material which might prevent the pipe from being uniformly supported is encountered in the bottom of the trench, the trench shall be undercut a minimum of four (4) inches below final grade. The over cut area of the trench will then be filled with sand or fine-grained soil.

**3. BEDDING**

The pipe shall be firmly and uniformly bedded throughout its entire length. Bedding material shall be placed and spread in uniform layers and in such a manner as to fill the trench so there are no voids below the pipe. For pipe with bell joints, holes shall be dug in the bedding at the bells to permit the body of the pipe to be in contact with the bedding along its entire length. Blocking or mounding shall not be used to bring the pipe up to final grade.

**4. PIPE INSTALLATION**

Pipe shall be of the diameter, length, material, and pressure class as specified on the drawings.

The pipe shall not be dropped into the trench or handled in a manner to cause damage. Individual joints of pipe shall be inspected and any damaged pipe shall be removed and replaced. The pipe will be allowed to come within a few degrees of the temperature it will have after it is completely backfilled before placing fill other than that needed for shading or before connecting the pipe to other facilities.

Hand, mechanical or water packing are optional methods for placing and compacting pipe backfill.

**5. BACKFILL**

**Initial Backfill.** The initial backfill material shall be soil or sand that is free from rocks, gravels, frozen materials larger than one (1) inch or earth clods greater than two (2) inches in diameter. This may be the on-site trench excavated materials as long as any unsuitable materials are removed. The initial backfill materials shall be placed in a manner as not to displace, deform or damage the pipe.

When backfilling is done by hand or mechanical means, the initial fill shall be compacted firmly around and above the pipe to achieve a soil density equal or greater than the density of the undisturbed walls of the trench. The thickness of individual lifts prior to compaction shall not exceed six (6) inches.

When water packing is used, the pipe shall be filled with water. The initial backfill, before wetting, shall be of sufficient depth to ensure complete coverage of the pipe with backfill after consolidation has taken place. Water packing shall be accomplished by adding water to diked reaches of the trench in such quantity as to thoroughly saturate the initial backfill. After the backfill is saturated, the fill shall be consolidated by rodding or with a vibrator. The wetted fill shall be allowed to dry until firm before completing the final backfill. The pipeline shall remain full of water until after the final backfill is placed.

**Final Backfill.** The final backfill material shall be free of rocks, frozen clods or other debris larger than one (1) inch in diameter within six (6) inches of the pipe and six (6) inches in particle size for the remaining portion of the final backfill unless otherwise specified on the drawings. The material shall be placed and spread in approximately uniform layers so there are no unfilled spaces in the backfill. Rolling equipment shall not be used until a minimum of 18 inches of compacted backfill material has been placed over the top of the pipe and then only on pipe having a wall thickness greater than that of SDR-41. Final backfill may be mounded above ground level over the top of the trench. In no case shall the final backfill be lower than the natural ground along the trench.

All special backfilling requirements of the pipe manufacturer shall be followed.

**Cover.** The minimum depth for backfill over the top of the pipe shall be two (2) feet and the maximum depth for backfill shall be six (6) feet unless differing depths are shown on the drawings.

At low places on the ground surface or at locations where it is shallow to rock, extra fill may be placed over the pipeline to provide the minimum depth of cover. In such cases, the top width of the fill shall be no less than ten (10) feet and the side slopes no steeper than six (6) horizontal to one (1) vertical.

Vertical alignment of pipe shall be uniform and such as to maintain the cover requirements unless otherwise noted on the drawings. If irregular grades are required, thrust blocks, air releases, drains and other appurtenances as needed shall be installed.

**Thrust Blocks.** Thrust blocks when specified shall be formed against a solid trench wall. They shall be of the minimum size and materials as specified on the drawings.

**Joints and Connections.** All joints and connections shall be constructed to withstand the design working pressure for the pipeline without leakage and shall leave the inside of the pipeline free of any obstruction which could reduce the pipe capacity below design requirements.

All fittings such as couplers, reducers, bends and tees shall be made of material that is recommended for use with the type of pipe specified, and shall be installed in accordance with the recommendations of the pipe manufacturer. Fittings made of steel or other materials susceptible to corrosion shall (1) be wrapped with plastic tape meeting the requirements of AWWA C 209 for Type I or II tape, (2) coated with coal-tar epoxy paint (Kippers-Bitumastic No. 300-M is an approved off the shelf product), (3) painted with one coat of urethane primer applied at a rate of two to three (2-3) mils thick and two or more coats of gloss or semi-gloss Alkyd Enamel to provide a minimum thickness of six (6) mils, or (4) coated with epoxy paint in accordance with the Steel Structures Council (SSPC) Paint Specification # 16.

Pipelines with solvent welded joints shall have expansion-contraction couplers as indicated on the drawings. Couplers shall have a minimum length of 14 inches.

Solvent for solvent cement joints shall conform to ASTM D 2564 for PVC pipe and fittings, to ASTM D 2235 for Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene pipe and fittings.

Rubber gaskets shall conform to ASTM D 3139 or F 447.

## **6. MATERIALS**

The pipe shall be of the materials specified on the drawings conforming to one of the following ASTM Specifications:

- D 1785, D 2241 or D 2272 Polyvinyl Chloride Plastic Pipe
- D 2740 Polyvinyl Chloride Plastic Tubing
- F 679 or F 789 Polyvinyl Chloride Plastic Gravity Sewer Pipe and Fittings
- F 794 Polyvinyl Chloride Profile Gravity Sewer Pipe and Fittings
- F 800 Corrugated Poly (Vinyl Chloride) Tubing
- F 949 Polyvinyl Chloride Corrugated Sewer Pipe
- D 1527 or D 2282 Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene Plastic Pipe
- D 2104, D 2239, D 2447, D 2737, D 3035, F 714 Polyethylene Plastic Pipe
- F 771 Polyethylene Thermoplastic High-Pressure Irrigation Pipeline Systems
- F 894 Polyethylene Large Diameter Profile Wall Sewer and Drain Pipe

- F 405 & F 667 Corrugated Polyethylene Tubing and Fittings

**Structures and appurtenances.** Structures, risers and appurtenances shall be of the size, type and material as shown on the drawings. Inlets to risers shall be equipped with trash guards and/or screens as noted on the drawings.

#### **7. OUTLETS**

The outlet shall be a length of rigid pipe with at least 2/3 of its length embedded in the bank. The outlet pipe shall be equipped with a flap gate or other animal guard to protect the conduit from rodents.

#### **8. VEGETATIVE COVER**

On areas not farmed, a protective cover of vegetation shall be established on the disturbed area. The planting of vegetative materials shall conform to the requirements of Practice Specification 342, Critical Area Planting.