



DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Building Division

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TRENCH DEPTH GUIDE

(REV: 01-03-23)

ALL TRENCHES ARE REQUIRED TO BE INSPECTED BEFORE BACK FILLING

ALL TRENCHES MUST BE SHOWN ON PLOT PLAN

Electrical

- * Caution tape required 6" below grade
- * All buried conduit in Flood Zone will be required to be water tight to 1 foot above BFE.

Direct Burial Cables

- 24" min below grade or by listing specification of cable
- Rigid conduit with conductors
 - 18" min below grade
 - 24" min under driveways, street, etc.
- Rigid Nonmetallic conduit with conductors
 - 18" min below grade
 - Sch 80 for riser protection to panel box or
 - 8 ft above ground
 - 24" min under driveways, streets, etc.

Residential Branch Circuits

- 120 volts or less with GFIC protection (max 20 amps)
 - 12" min below grade in Rigid conduit
 - Circuits for control of Landscape Lighting or Irrigation
 - 30 volts or less with Type of Cables
 - 6" min below grade
- * Low Voltage does not require caution tape

Water Plumbing

P.V.C. (Approved for exterior locations only)

- 12" min below grade, protected at all other locations

Ferrous metal or nonferrous metal

- 12" min below grade

Gas Plumbing

- * No LP Gas Plumbing Approved Under Concrete Slabs
- * All connections to be wrapped

Ferrous (coated metal) gas plumbing

- 12" below grade
- 18" below grade for mobile home installations

Plastic gas piping (with listed metallic risers)

- 18" below grade (to a point 6" above grade) with electrically continuous insulated #18 AWG yellow copper tracer wire or approved tracer tape and shall terminate above grade at each end

Sewer Plumbing (UPC 7183)

ABS

- Min 12" below grade within 2' of any structure all other areas protected from sun light, physical damage, and frost.
 - All electrical, gas, water & abs plumbing suggested to be min of 4" separation same trench
- * Tip: Separation of pipes is suggested. If there is ever a problem, it is easier to fix/repair when separated.

Depending on soil conditions, sand may be required. All ditches, regardless of utility type shall be rock/debris free. Pipe to lay on continuous rock/debris free ground with no voids under pipe and minimal sag.