

Installing below ground pipework

Checklist

Is the proposed site of installation safe?

Complete a water quality risk assessment to identify the risks and controls needed.

Pipework should never be installed in a contaminated environment such as a sewer or cesspool. Plastic plumbing fittings are at risk of permeation by diesel or heating fuel, pesticides, insecticides and similar organic substances or fluids, so should never be installed where they could come into direct contact, including contact with soil contaminated with them.

Are the pipe and fittings to be used of an appropriate quality and standard, and suitable for installation?

Pipe and fittings should be corrosion resistant. Conform to either the Regulators Specification or a British Standard for below ground systems at the maximum operating temperature and at least 1½ times the maximum operating pressures they will be exposed to. They must also be compatible.

Has consent been granted?

Notification is an important simple and essential check to minimise the risk of waste and contaminating water supplies both on site and in the wider community.

The installation of below ground pipework is typically notifiable, and must be notified when installed at a depth of less than 750 mm or more than 1350 mm.

How close should pipework be to other services?

The recommended distances between utilities can be found in the latest National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) guidelines. Where these dimensions and depths cannot be achieved protective measures will be required.



How deep should pipe be laid?

Pipework should be laid at a depth of not less than 750 mm (to limit the effect of freezing and mechanical damage) and no greater than 1350 mm deep.

Where this is not possible, for example due to an obstruction, the local water undertaker should be consulted. Pipework should not be laid at depths of less than 750 mm or greater than 1350 mm without the agreement of the local water undertaker.



Has the pipework been marked?

All pipework, whether installed above or below ground, should be marked in accordance with the latest version of [BS 1710](#). For further information please refer to the [pipe identification information leaflet](#) an example is shown below.



Please note other requirements apply refer to the [Guidance published by Water Regs UK for further information](#) <https://www.waterregsuk.co.uk/guidance/>

