TECHNICAL NOTE

Minimum and Maximum Cover Heights for HP Storm Pipe for Storm Drainage

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Introduction

The information in this document is designed to provide answers to general cover height questions; the data provided is not intended to be used for project design. The design procedure described in the *Structures* section (Section 2) of the Drainage Handbook provides detailed information for analyzing most common installation conditions. This procedure should be utilized for project specific designs.

The two common cover height concerns are minimum cover in areas exposed to vehicular traffic and maximum cover heights. Either may be considered "worst case" scenario from a loading perspective, depending on the project conditions.

Minimum Cover in Traffic Applications

Pipe diameters from 12- through 48-inch (300-1200 mm) installed in traffic areas (AASHTO H-20, H-25, or HL-93 loads) must have at least one foot (0.3m) of cover over the pipe crown, while 60-inch (1500 mm) pipes must have at least 24 inches (0.6m) of cover. The backfill envelope must be constructed in accordance with the *Installation* section (Section 5) of the Drainage Handbook and the requirements of ASTM D2321. The backfill envelope must be of the type and compaction listed in Appendix A-5, Table A-5-2 of the Drainage Handbook. In Table 1 below, this condition is represented by a Class III material compacted to 95% standard Proctor density or a Class II material compacted to 90% standard proctor density, although other material can provide similar strength at slightly lower levels of compaction. Structural backfill material should extend to the crown of the pipe; the remaining cover should be appropriate for the installation and as specified by the design engineer. If settlement or rutting is a concern, it may be appropriate to extend the structural backfill to grade. Where pavement is involved, sub-base material can be considered in the minimum burial depth. While rigid pavements can be included in the minimum cover, the thickness of flexible pavements should not be included in the minimum cover.

Additional information that may affect the cover requirements is included in the *Installation* section (Section 5) of the Drainage Handbook. Some examples of what may need to be considered are temporary heavy equipment, construction loading , paving equipment and similar loads that are less than the design load, the potential of pipe flotation, and the type of surface treatment which will be installed over the pipe zone.

Table 1
Minimum Cover Requirements for ADS HP Storm with AASHTO H-250, H-25, or HL-93 Load

Inside Diameter, ID, in.(mm)	Minimum Cover ft. (m)
12 (300)	1 (0.3)
15 (375)	1 (0.3)
18 (450)	1 (0.3)
24 (600)	1 (0.3)
30 (750)	1 (0.3)

Inside Diameter, ID, in.(mm)	Minimum Cover ft. (m)
36 (900)	1 (0.3)
42 (1050)	1 (0.3)
48 (1200)	1 (0.3)
60 (1500)	2 (0.6)

Notes:

1. *Minimum covers presented here were calculated assuming Class III backfill material compacted to 95% standard Proctor density or Class II backfill material compacted to 90% standard Proctor density around the pipe, as recommended in Section 5 of the Drainage Handbook, with an additional layer of compacted traffic lane sub-base for a total cover as required. In shallow traffic installations, especially where pavement is involved, a good quality compacted material to grade is required to prevent surface settlement and rutting.*
2. *The minimum covers specified do not include pavement thickness. A pavement section of 0.4' is typical.*
3. *Backfill materials and compaction levels not shown in the table may also be acceptable. Contact ADS for further detail.*
4. *Calculations assume no hydrostatic pressure and native soils that are as strong as the specified minimum backfill recommendations.*

Maximum Cover

Wall thrust generally governs the maximum cover a pipe can withstand and conservative maximum cover heights will result when using the information presented in the *Structures* section (Section 2) of the Drainage Handbook. Table 2 below shows the material properties consistent with the expected performance characteristics for HP Storm materials for a 100-year design life.

The maximum burial depth is highly influenced by the type of backfill and level of compaction around the pipe. General maximum cover limits for ADS HP Storm use in storm drainage applications are shown in Tables 3 for a variety of backfill conditions.

Table 3 was developed assuming pipe is installed in accordance with ASTM D2321 and the *Installation* section (Section 5) of the Drainage handbook. Additionally, the calculations assume no hydrostatic load around the pipe, incorporate the maximum conservative AASHTO LRFD design factors represented in *Structures* section of the Drainage Handbook, use material properties consistent with the expected performance characteristics for HP Storm materials, as shown in Table 2, and assume the native (in-situ) soil is of adequate strength and suitable for installation. For applications requiring fill heights greater than those shown in Table 3 or where hydrostatic pressure due to groundwater is expected, contact an ADS Engineer.

Table 2
ADS HP Storm Mechanical Properties

Resin	ASTM Specification	Allowable Long Term Strain %	Initial		75-Year	
			Fu (psi)	E (psi)	Fu (psi)	E (psi)
Polypropylene, Impact-modified copolymer	ASTM F2881	3.7	3,500	175,000	1,000	28,000

Figure 1
ADS HP Storm Pipe Trench Detail with Uniform Backfill
(Traffic and Non-Traffic Applications)

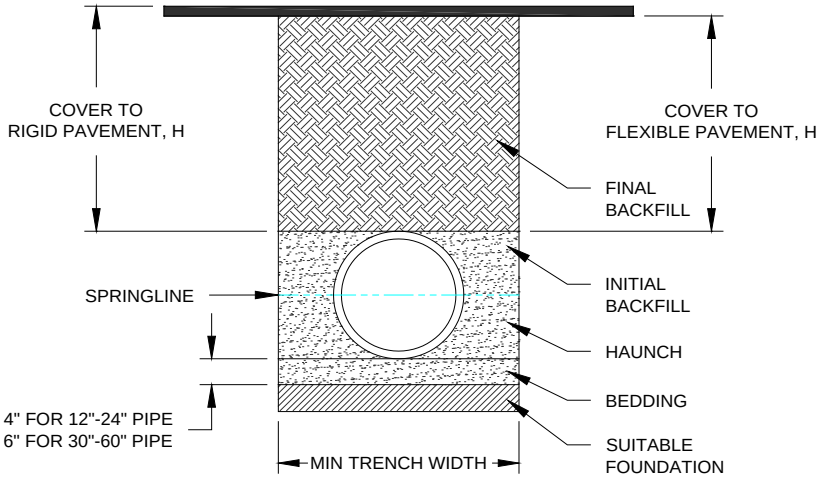

Table 3
Maximum Cover for ADS HP Storm Pipe with Uniform Backfill, ft (m)

Diameter	Class 1	Class 2			Class 3		Class 4
in (mm)	Compacted	95%	90%	85% [3]	95%	90% [3]	95% [3]
12 (300)	41 (12.5)	28 (8.5)	21 (6.4)	16 (4.9)	20 (6.1)	16 (4.9)	16 (4.9)
15 (375)	42 (12.8)	29 (8.8)	21 (6.4)	16 (4.9)	21 (6.4)	16 (4.9)	16 (4.9)
18 (450)	44 (13.4)	30 (9.1)	21 (6.4)	16 (4.9)	22 (6.7)	17 (5.2)	16 (4.9)
24 (600)	37 (11.3)	26 (7.9)	18 (5.5)	14 (4.3)	19 (5.8)	14 (4.3)	14 (4.3)
30 (750)	39 (11.9)	27 (8.2)	19 (5.8)	14 (4.3)	19 (5.8)	15 (4.6)	14 (4.3)
36 (900)	28 (8.5)	20 (6.1)	14 (4.3)	10 (3.0)	14 (4.3)	11 (3.4)	10 (3.0)
42 (1050)	30 (9.1)	21 (6.4)	14 (4.3)	10 (3.0)	15 (4.6)	11 (3.4)	10 (3.0)
48 (1200)	29 (8.8)	20 (6.1)	14 (4.3)	9 (2.7)	14 (4.3)	10 (3.0)	10 (3.0)
60 (1500)	29 (8.8)	20 (6.1)	14 (4.3)	9 (2.7)	14 (4.3)	10 (3.0)	9 (2.7)

Notes:

1. *Results based on calculations shown in the Structures section of the ADS Drainage Handbook (v20.7). Calculations assume no hydrostatic pressure and a density of 120 pcf (1926 kg/m^3) for overburden material.*
2. *Installation assumed to be in accordance with ASTM D2321 and the Installation section of the Drainage Handbook.*
3. *For installations using lower quality backfill materials or lower compaction efforts, pipe deflection may exceed the 5% design limit; however controlled deflection may not be a structurally limiting factor for the pipe. For installation where deflection is critical, pipe placement techniques or periodic deflection measurements may be required to ensure satisfactory pipe installation.*
4. *Backfill materials and compaction levels not shown in the table may also be acceptable. Contact ADS for further detail.*
5. *Material must be adequately "knifed" into haunch and in between corrugations. Compaction and backfill material is assumed uniform throughout entire backfill zone.*
6. *Compaction levels shown are for standard Proctor density.*
7. *For projects where cover exceeds the maximum values listed above, contact ADS for specific design considerations.*
8. *See ADS Standard Detail STD-101D for additional details.*