

Pipeline “Tricks of the Trade”

- Always carry the EJP Emergency Guide with you. It contains important information regarding pipe installation/testing as well as location & numbers of the nearest EJP office to your project.
- Always carry an outside diameter (O.D.) tape.
- If you don't have an O.D. tape, a string and ruler can be utilized. Wrap the string around the pipe making a mark on the two ends where they meet. Lay the string along a ruler measuring between the two marks. Divide the total inches by Pi (3.14), that will give you the diameter.
- At the end of each work day, always plug the end pipe when installing a new line, thus preventing water and debris infiltration.
- Run sewer pipe straight through the manholes; saves from building an invert inside the manhole.
- Always brace your plugs when air testing. Even though you are testing with only 5 psi, it can be catastrophic if the air is not fully released from the pipe prior to deflating the plug.
- When vacuum testing manholes, a small amount of mason sand & water can eliminate imperfections in the manhole cone. Applying water around the inflated seal will reveal the leak; placing a small amount of mason sand in the leak will usually seal it. Hydraulic cement can also be used, remember to clean the bladder after testing.
- Prior to cutting ductile iron pipe, slide the MJ or restraining gland over the pipe beyond the proposed cut. It will provide a gauge of the pipe's roundness as well as preventing “springing” of the pipe.
- Always bevel PVC or Ductile Iron pipe before installing MJ fittings.
- Always fill new water mains slowly to eliminate any trapped air.
- Install adequate size blowoffs, prior to flushing waterlines.
- Use Field-Lok™ gaskets under roadways and buildings for restraint.
- Never cut closer than 2 feet from the bell when cutting ductile iron pipe.
- When cutting into a wet line, cut from the bottom to allow the pipe to drain.
- Always blow out corporation or valve after a tap, so filings won't clog the line or meter.
- When working with flange pipe, tighten all bolts snug, assemble all parts and then go back and tighten and torque to specifications.
- Always use pipe lube on bevel side of MJ gaskets when assembling MJ fittings.
- When working with High Density Polyethylene, remember that expansion and contraction of PE pipe is 1" per 100' per 10° temperature change.
- Always install a Backing Ring prior to fusing the Flange adapter or MJ adapter.
- Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions for pipe, fittings, glands, etc. It WILL eliminate problems caused by improper installation.