

	STANDARD OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE Community and Economic Development	Number: 6-2
Subject: Bedding and Backfill for Buried Piping	Approval Date: April 4, 2007	
Approval: Chuck King, Building Official	Effective Date: April 4, 2007	

1.0 PURPOSE

Allowable materials and compaction requirements for underground piping.

2.0 DISTRIBUTION

Public, Community and Economic Development (CED) Personnel

3.0 REVISION HISTORY

January, 2019 (Code Update)

4.0 CODE REFERENCE

2018 International Plumbing Code (IPC), Section 306
2018 International Residential Code (IRC), Section P2605

5.0 POLICY

The IPC and IRC describe materials to be used for bedding and backfilling of underground piping. To meet the intent of the code and to ensure that the proper material is being used for bedding and backfill, the material must be on site when the underground plumbing inspection is performed.

The piping must be installed on clean bedding with uniform slopes to provide continuous support of the piping. If the bottom of the trench is suitable to provide this bedding, and is free of rocks, it may be used as the bedding material. If the bottom of the trench is not suitable for bedding, it must be over excavated and backfilled with approved material to provide a uniform bed.

Approved materials may consist of site materials, if the material contains no rocks larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Engineered fills, such as $\frac{3}{4}$ minus aggregate base (AB), sand, or similar filtered material may be used. The pipe shall have tamped materials around and above the piping installed in 6 inch lifts and compacted until the piping is covered with not less than twelve inches of this material.

Compaction is a critical element in construction due to soil settlement affecting structural integrity. Compaction shall be achieved by mechanical means. Wheel rolling or water puddle method are not approved methods. The rate of compaction shall be determined by the more restrictive requirements, of the soils report or the engineering design, but in no case shall it be compacted to less than ninety percent.