



MICROTRENCHING 101

DID YOU KNOW?

These methods work well on fiberoptic or small conduit jobs because they can be more cost effective and take less time than other installation methods.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Microtrenching is a technique where a very narrow trench is cut into the pavement — usually close to the seam — where the road meets the curb. Once the line is laid, a grout compound is used to fill in the trench. The seam is then sealed, which helps protect the line and restores the integrity of the road surface.

KNOW THE SURFACE (AND UNDERLAYMENT) YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH.

The type of surface you'll be working with determines your approach. As you determine the surface, you should also make sure you know what's underneath that surface.

Knowing the width and depth of the trench can help you prepare for the project, as well as understand what type of production to expect and the attachment to use.

For maximum trench cutting depth of **12** and width of **2.3**
in (30.4 cm) in (5.8 cm)

MTR12 microtrencher attachment

For maximum trench cutting depth of **16** and width of **2.25**
in (40.6 cm) in (5.7 cm)

MTR16 microtrencher attachment

For maximum trench cutting depth of **26** and width of **4-6**
in (66 cm) in (10.2 cm - 15.2 cm)

RW526 rockwheel attachment

DID YOU KNOW?

The trench generally ranges from .75 in to 2.25 in (1.9 cm to 5.7 cm) wide and up to 16 in (40.6 cm) deep, which is typically above existing utilities.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT VACUUM EXCAVATION EQUIPMENT.

After you know what you're cutting, you have to determine what you're going to do with the dry spoil. A hose from your microtrenching attachment to a connected vacuum excavator cleanly removes and contains the spoil, allowing you to take it away from the jobsite while you're microtrenching.



When it comes to vac systems, there are a couple things you should consider:

- 1 For microtrenching, you'll want to choose a vac system that has at least 900 cubic feet per minute (cfm). Typically, this will be a trailer vac, like the Vermeer LP SGT vacuum excavator, which has 1,000 cfm (1,699-m³/hr).
- 2 Keep in mind how far away your dump site is. If you have to haul it a long distance, think about upgrading to a bigger spoil tank to lessen the number of trips to the dump site.

PREPARE YOUR BACKFILL MATERIAL.

After the trench is cut and the product is placed, you will need to backfill the trench. The amount of material needed will depend on the width, depth and length of the trench.

There are two options for backfill material:



Grout: This is prepared in a grout mixer on the jobsite and poured into the trench.



Epoxy: Preparation looks like mixing the two-part epoxy together and filling the trench with it before it starts to set.

In both backfill materials, an asphalt cap is put on top after the grout or epoxy has set. If it's on concrete, they'll make the backfill material level with the rest of the concrete.

DID YOU KNOW?

Knowing how many feet of trench you want to cut per day can help you choose the right vac system and estimate how long the project will take.

As you start to explore more about the benefits of microtrenching, be sure to visit vermeer.com or **contact your local dealer.**

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