

ITEM 400

EXCAVATION AND BACKFILL FOR STRUCTURES

400.1. Description. Excavate for placement and construction of structures and backfill structures. Cut and restore pavement.

400.2. Materials. Use materials that meet the requirements of the following Items:

- Item 401, “Flowable Backfill”
- Item 421, “Hydraulic Cement Concrete”
- DMS-4600, “Hydraulic Cement”

400.3. Construction.

A. Excavation.

- 1. General.** Excavate to the lines and grades shown on the plans or as directed. Provide slopes, benching, sheeting, bracing, pumping, and bailing as necessary to maintain the stability and safety of excavations up to 5 ft. deep. Excavation protection for excavations deeper than 5 ft. are governed by Item 402, “Trench Excavation Protection,” and Item 403, “Temporary Special Shoring.” Use satisfactory excavated material as backfill or as embankment fill in accordance with Item 132, “Embankment.” Dispose of material not incorporated into the final project off the right of way in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

When excavating for installation of structures across private property or beyond the limits of the embankment, keep any topsoil removed separate, and replace it, as nearly as feasible, in its original position. Restore the area to an acceptable condition.

Excavate drilled shafts in accordance with Item 416, “Drilled Shaft Foundations.”

- a. Obstructions.** Remove obstructions to the proposed construction, including trees and other vegetation, debris, and structures, over the width of the excavation to a depth of 1 ft. below the bottom of excavation. If abandoned storm drains, sewers, or other drainage systems are encountered, remove as required to clear the new structure, and plug in an approved manner. After removing obstructions, restore the bottom of the excavation to grade by backfilling in accordance with this Item. Dispose of surplus materials in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- b. Excavation in Streets.** When structures are installed in streets, highways, or other paved areas, cut pavement and base to neat lines. Restore pavement structure after completion of excavation and backfilling.

Maintain and control traffic in accordance with the approved traffic control plan and the TMUTCD.
- c. Utilities.** Comply with the requirements of Article 7.12, “Responsibility for Damage Claims.” Conduct work with minimum disturbance of existing utilities, and coordinate work in or near utilities with the utility owners. Inform utility owners sufficiently before work begins to allow them time to identify, locate, reroute, or make other adjustments to utility lines.

Avoid cutting or damaging underground utility lines that are to remain in place. If damage occurs, promptly notify the utility company. If an active sanitary sewer line is damaged during excavation, provide temporary flumes across the excavation while open, and restore the lines when backfilling has progressed to the original bedding lines of the cut sewer.
- d. De-Watering.** Do not construct or place structures in the presence of water unless approved. Place precast members, pipe, and concrete only on a dry, firm surface. Remove water by bailing, pumping, well-point installation, deep wells, underdrains, or other approved method.

If structures are approved for placement in the presence of water, remove standing water in a manner that does not allow water movement through or alongside concrete being placed. Do not pump or bail while placing structural concrete or for a period of at least 36 hr. thereafter

unless from a suitable sump separated from the concrete work. Pump or bail during placement of seal concrete only to the extent necessary to maintain a static head of water within the cofferdam. Do not pump or bail to de-water inside a sealed cofferdam until the seal has aged at least 36 hr.

If the bottom of an excavation cannot be de-watered to the point that the subgrade is free of mud or it is difficult to keep reinforcing steel clean, place a stabilizing material in the bottom of the excavation. Stabilizing material may be flexible base, cement-stabilized base or backfill, lean concrete, or other approved material. If lean concrete is used, provide concrete with at least 275 lb. of cement per cubic yard, and place to a minimum depth of 3 in.

Stabilizing material placed for the convenience of the Contractor will be at the Contractor's expense.

2. **Bridge Foundations and Retaining Walls.** Do not disturb material below the bottom of footing grade. Do not backfill to compensate for excavation that has extended below grade. If excavation occurs below the proposed footing grade, fill the area with concrete at the time the footing is placed. The additional concrete placed will be at the Contractor's expense.

If requested, take cores to determine the character of the supporting materials. Provide an intact sample adequate to judge the character of the founding material. Take these cores when the excavation is close to completion. Cores should be approximately 5 ft. deeper than the proposed founding grade.

If the founding stratum is rock or other hard material, remove loose material, clean, and cut to a firm surface that is level, stepped, or serrated, as directed. Clean out soft seams, and fill with concrete at the time the footing is placed.

If the material at the footing grade of a retaining wall, bridge bent, or pier is a mixture of compressible and incompressible material, do not place the foundation until the Engineer has inspected the excavation and authorized changes have been made to provide a uniform bearing condition.

3. **Cofferdams.** The term "cofferdam" designates any temporary or removable structure constructed to hold surrounding earth, water, or both out of the excavation whether the structure is formed of soil, timber, steel, concrete, or a combination of these. Cofferdams may require the use of pumping wells or well points for de-watering.

For sheet-pile or other types of cofferdams requiring structural members, submit details and design calculations bearing the seal of a licensed professional engineer for review before constructing the cofferdam. The Department reserves the right to reject designs. Design structural systems to comply with the *AASHTO Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges* or *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*. Interior dimensions of cofferdams must provide sufficient clearance for the construction, inspection, and removal of required forms and, if necessary, sufficient room to allow pumping outside the forms. In general, extend sheet-pile cofferdams well below the bottom of the footings, and make concrete seals as well braced and watertight as practicable.

For foundation seals, use Class E concrete unless otherwise specified. Place concrete foundation seals in accordance with Item 420, "Concrete Structures." Seals placed for the convenience of the Contractor will be at the Contractor's expense.

When the Engineer judges it to be impractical to de-water inside a cofferdam and a concrete seal is to be placed around piling driven within the cofferdam, make the excavation deep enough to allow for swelling of the material at the base of the excavation during pile-driving operations. After driving the piling, remove swelling material to the bottom of the seal grade. Where it is possible to de-water inside the cofferdam without placing a seal, remove the foundation material to exact footing grades after driving piling. Do not backfill a foundation to compensate for excavation that has been extended below grade; fill such areas below grade with concrete at the time the seals or footings are placed.

Unless otherwise provided, remove cofferdams after completing the substructure without disturbing or damaging the structure.

4. **Culverts and Storm Drains.** When the design requires special bedding conditions for culverts or storm drains, an excavation diagram will be shown on the plans. Do not exceed these limits of excavation.

Unless otherwise shown on the plans, construct pipe structures in an open cut with vertical sides extending to a point 1 ft. above the pipe. When site conditions or the plans do not prohibit sloping the cut, the excavation may be stepped or laid back to a stable slope beginning 1 ft. above the pipe. Maintain the stability of the excavation throughout the construction period.

For pipe to be installed in fill above natural ground, construct the embankment to an elevation at least 1 ft. above the top of the pipe, and then excavate for the pipe.

- a. **Unstable Material.** When unstable soil is encountered at established footing grade, remove the material to a depth of no more than 2 ft. below the grade of the structure unless the Engineer authorizes additional depth. Replace soil removed with stable material in uniform layers at most 8 in. deep (loose measurement). Each layer must have enough moisture to be compacted by rolling or tamping as required to provide a stable foundation for the structure.

When it is not feasible to construct a stable foundation as outlined above, use special materials such as flexible base, cement-stabilized base, cement-stabilized backfill, or other approved material.

- b. **Incompressible Material.** If rock, part rock, or other incompressible material is encountered at established footing grade while placing prefabricated elements, remove the incompressible material to 6 in. below the footing grade, backfill with an approved compressible material, and compact in accordance with Section 400.3.C, "Backfill."

- B. Shaping and Bedding.** For precast box sections, place at least 2 in. of fine granular material on the base of the excavation before placing the box sections. For pipe installations, use bedding as shown in Figure 1. Use Class C bedding unless otherwise shown on the plans. The Engineer may require the use of a template to secure reasonably accurate shaping of the foundation material. Where cement-stabilized backfill is indicated on the plans, undercut the excavation at least 4 in. and backfill with stabilized material to support the pipe or box at the required grade.

B_c - Outside diameter or horizontal dimension
 D - Inside diameter of pipe
 d - Min. bedding material below pipe

D	d
$\leq 27''$	3"
30" to 60"	4"
$\geq 66''$	6"

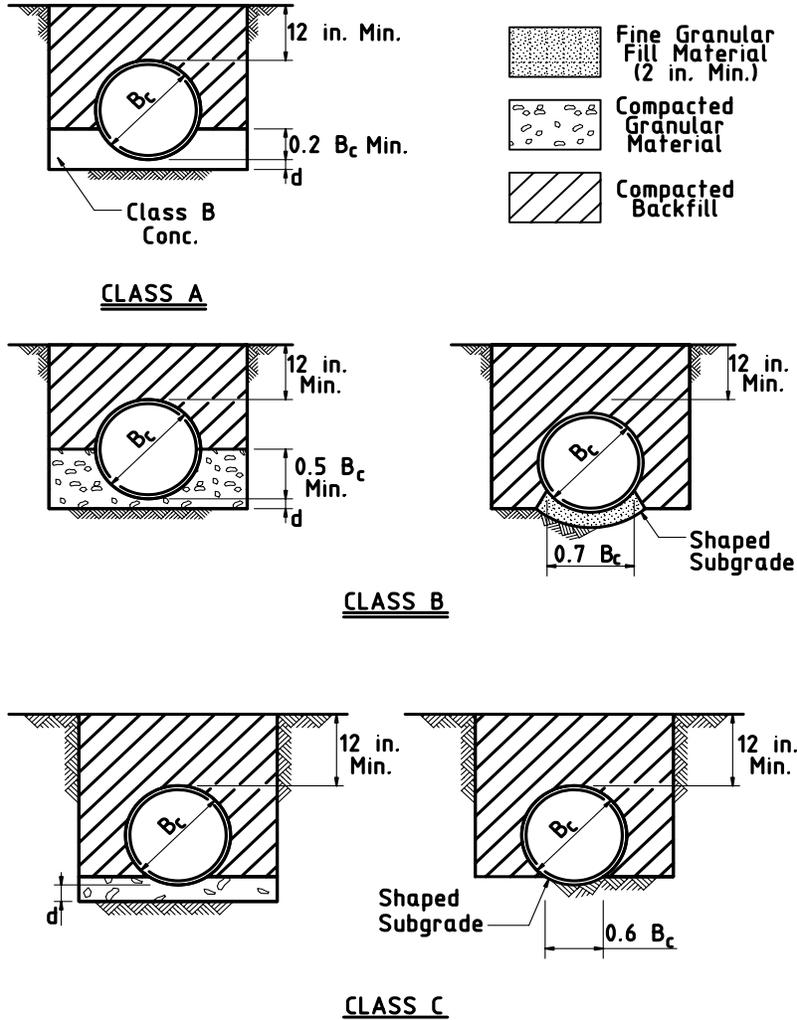


Figure 1
Bedding diagrams.

C. Backfill.

- General.** As soon as practical, backfill the excavation after placement of the permanent structure. Use backfill free from stones large enough to interfere with compaction; large or frozen lumps that will not break down readily under compaction; and wood or other extraneous material. Obtain backfill material from excavation or from other sources.

In areas not supporting a completed roadbed, retaining wall, or embankment, place backfill in layers at most 10 in. deep (loose measurement). In areas supporting a portion of a roadbed, retaining wall, or embankment, place backfill in uniform layers at most 8 in. deep (loose measurement). Compact each layer to meet the density requirements of the roadbed, retaining wall, embankment material, or as shown on the plans.

Bring each layer of backfill material to the moisture content needed to obtain the required density. Use mechanical tamps or rammers to compact the backfill. Rollers may be used to compact backfill if feasible.

Cohesionless materials such as sand may be used for backfilling. Compact cohesionless materials using vibratory equipment, water-ponding, or a combination of both.

- 2. Bridge Foundations, Retaining Walls, and Box Culverts.** Do not place backfill against the structure until the concrete has reached the design strength required in Item 421, "Hydraulic Cement Concrete."

Backfill retaining walls with material meeting the requirements of Item 423, "Retaining Walls." Backfill around bridge foundations and culverts using material with no particles more than 4 in. in greatest dimension and with a gradation that permits thorough compaction. Rock or gravel mixed with soil may be used if the percentage of fines is sufficient to fill all voids and ensure a uniform and thoroughly compacted mass of proper density.

Where backfill material is being placed too close to the structure to permit compaction with blading and rolling equipment, use mechanical tamps and rammers to avoid damage to the structure.

Avoid wedging action of backfill against structures. To prevent such action, step or serrate slopes bounding the excavation. Place backfill uniformly around bridge foundations. Place backfill along both sides of culverts equally and in uniform layers.

The Engineer may require backfilling of structures excavated into hard, erosion-resistant material, and subject to erosive forces, with stone or lean concrete.

Box culverts may be opened to traffic as soon as sufficient backfill and embankment has been placed over the top to protect culverts against damage from heavy construction equipment. Repair damage to culvert caused by construction traffic at no additional expense to the Department.

- 3. Pipe.** After installing bedding and pipe as required, bring backfill material to the proper moisture condition and place it equally along both sides of the pipe in uniform layers at most 8 in. deep (loose measurement). Compact each lift mechanically. Thoroughly compact materials placed under the haunches of the pipe to prevent damage or displacement of the pipe. Continue to place backfill in this manner to the top-of-pipe elevation. Place and compact backfill above the top of the pipe in accordance with Section 400.3.C.1, "General."

The Engineer may reject backfill material containing more than 20% by weight of material retained on a 3-in. sieve; with large lumps not easily broken down; or that cannot be spread in loose layers. Material excavated by a trenching machine will generally meet the requirements of this Section as long as large stones are not present.

Where pipe extends beyond the toe of slope of the embankment and the depth of cover provided by backfill to the original ground level is less than the minimum required by the specifications for the type of pipe involved, place and compact additional material until the minimum cover has been provided.

- 4. Cement-Stabilized Backfill.** When shown on the plans, backfill the excavation to the elevations shown with cement-stabilized backfill. Use cement-stabilized backfill that contains aggregate, water, and a minimum of 7% hydraulic cement based on the dry weight of the aggregate, in accordance with Tex-120-E. Use clean sand as aggregate for cement-stabilized backfill unless otherwise shown on the plans. Use only approved aggregate.

Place cement-stabilized backfill equally along the sides of structures to prevent strain on or displacement of the structure. Fill voids when placing cement-stabilized backfill. Use hand operated tampers if necessary to fill voids.

- 5. Flowable Backfill.** When shown on the plans, backfill the excavation with flowable backfill to the elevations shown. Prevent the structure from being displaced during the placement of the flowable fill, and prevent flowable fill from entering culverts and drainage structures.

400.4. Measurement. This is a plans quantity measurement Item. The quantity to be paid is the quantity shown in the proposal, unless modified by Article 9.2, "Plans Quantity Measurement." Additional measurements or calculations will be made if adjustments of quantities are required.

A. Structural Excavation. Unless shown on the plans as a pay item, structural excavation quantities shown are for information purposes only.

When structural excavation is specified as a pay item, structural excavation for pipe headwalls, inlets, manholes, culvert or storm drain extensions less than 15 ft. long, bridge abutments, retaining walls, and side road and private entrance pipe culverts will not be measured. No allowance will be made for variance from plans quantity incurred by an alternate bid.

When specified as a pay item, structural excavation will be measured by the cubic yard as computed by the average end areas method. Excavation diagrams on the plans take precedence over the provisions of this Article.

1. Boundaries of Measurement.

a. Pipe.

(1) **Pipe up to 42 Inches.** For pipe 42 in. or less in nominal or equivalent diameter, no material outside of vertical planes 1 ft. beyond and parallel to the horizontal projection of the outside surfaces of the pipe will be included.

(2) **Pipe Larger than 42 Inches.** For pipes larger than 42-in. nominal or equivalent diameter, no material outside of vertical planes located 2 ft. beyond and parallel to the horizontal projection of the outside surfaces of the pipe will be included.

Quantities for excavation in fill above natural ground include 1 ft. above the top of the pipe regardless of the height of completed fill. Excavation for pipe will be measured between the extreme ends of the completed structure including end appurtenances as shown on the plans and from centerline to centerline of inlets, manholes, etc.

b. Structural Plate Structures. No material outside of vertical planes 3 ft. beyond and parallel to the horizontal projection of the outside surfaces of the structure will be included. When the quality of the existing soil or embankment is less than that of the proposed backfill material, the limits of measurement will be extended to vertical planes located 1/2 of the span beyond the horizontal projection of the outside surfaces of the structure.

c. Footings, Walls, Boxes, and Other Excavation. No material outside of vertical planes 1 ft. beyond and parallel to the edges of the footings or outside walls will be included whether or not a cofferdam or shoring is used. When plans provide the option of cast-in-place or precast boxes, measurement will be based on the cast-in-place option.

Where excavation in addition to that allowed for the footings is required for other portions of the structure, measurement for the additional excavation will be limited laterally by vertical planes 1 ft. beyond the face of the member and parallel to it, and vertically to a depth of 1 ft. below the bottom of the member.

d. Excavation near Roadways and Channels. At structure sites other than culverts and pipe excavations, the measurement of structural excavation will include only material below or outside the limits of the completed road or channel excavation. Roadway and channel excavation will be paid under Item 110, "Excavation." For culverts except side road and private entrance culverts, excavation within the limits of the structure and below or outside the limits of the completed roadway excavation will be measured as structural excavation.

2. Falsework. No measurement will be made for excavation necessary for placing forms or falsework that exceeds the limits given in Section 400.4.B.1, "Boundaries of Measurement."

3. Swelling. Measurement will not include materials removed below footing grades to compensate for anticipated swelling due to pile driving, nor will it include material required to be removed due to swelling beyond the specified limits during pile driving operations.

4. Cave-ins. Measurement will not include additional volume caused by slips, slides, cave-ins, silting, or fill material resulting from the action of the elements or the Contractor's operation.

5. **Undercut.** Where rock or other incompressible or unstable material is undercut to provide a suitable foundation for pipe or box sections, such material below grade directed to be removed will be measured for payment.
 6. **Grade Change.** Additional measurement will be made of the volume of excavation involved in the lowering or raising of the elevation of a footing, foundation, or structure unit, when such grade change is authorized.
- B. Cement-Stabilized Backfill.** Cement-stabilized backfill will be measured by the cubic yard as shown on the plans.
- C. Cutting and Restoring Pavement.** Cutting and restoring pavement will be measured by the square yard as shown on the plans. Excavation below pavement or base will be measured as structural excavation of the pertinent type.

400.5. Payment.

- A. Structural Excavation.** Unless specified as a pay item, structural excavation and backfill performed and material furnished in accordance with this Item will not be paid for directly but are subsidiary to pertinent Items.

When structural excavation is specified as a pay item, the excavation and backfill work performed and materials furnished will be paid for at the unit price bid for "Structural Excavation," "Structural Excavation (Box)," "Structural Excavation (Pipe)," and "Structural Excavation (Bridge)." This price includes concrete to compensate for excavation that has extended below grade for bridge foundations and retaining walls, and backfilling and compacting areas that were removed as part of structural excavation.

Cofferdams or other measures necessary for supporting excavations less than 5 ft. deep will not be measured or paid for directly but will be subsidiary to the Contract.

Foundation seal concrete for cofferdams, when required by the Engineer, will be paid for as provided in the pertinent Items. If no direct method of payment is provided in the Contract, the work will be measured and paid for in accordance with Article 9.4, "Payment for Extra Work." Seal placed for the convenience of the Contractor will not be paid for.

Unless otherwise provided, stone or lean concrete backfill around structures as provided for in Section 400.3.C.2, "Bridge Foundations, Retaining Walls, and Culverts," will be measured and paid for as extra work in accordance with Article 9.4.

When structural excavation is specified as a pay item, a partial payment of 50% of the bid price will be made for structural excavation completed to the satisfaction of the Engineer but not backfilled. The remaining amount will be paid upon completion of backfilling. When the Contractor elects to excavate beyond plan requirements, no measurement will be made of the additional volume.

- B. Removal and Replacement of Unsuitable or Incompressible Material.** Removal and replacement of material will be paid for if directed. Removal and replacement of material or placement of special material made necessary by the softening of founding material due to the Contractor's sequence of work or operation, will be at the Contractor's expense. Special material used or additional excavation made for the Contractor's convenience will not be paid for.

1. **Structural Excavation as a Pay Item.** Where special materials are not required or specified, payment for the removal and replacement of unstable or incompressible material will be made at a price equal to 200% of the unit price bid per cubic yard for Structural Excavation. When the Contractor elects to remove and replace material deeper than directed, no measurement will be made on that portion below the directed elevation. This price is full compensation for removing the unstable or incompressible material; furnishing, hauling, placing, and compacting suitable replacement material; and equipment, labor, tools, and incidentals.

When the plans specify or when the Engineer directs the use of special materials such as flexible base, cement-stabilized base, cement-stabilized backfill, or other special material, payment for excavation below footing grades will be made at the unit price bid for Structural Excavation. Payment for furnishing, hauling, placing, and compacting the flexible base, cement-stabilized base, cement-stabilized backfill, or other special materials will be made at the unit price bid for

these items in the Contract, or, if the required material is not a bid item, in accordance with Article 9.4, "Payment for Extra Work."

- 2. Structural Excavation Not a Pay Item.** Where special materials for backfill are not required or specified, payment for the authorized removal and replacement of unstable or incompressible material will be measured and paid for at \$15 per cubic yard of material removed. This price is full compensation for removing the unstable or incompressible material; furnishing, hauling, placing, and compacting suitable replacement material; and equipment, labor, tools, and incidentals.

When the plans specify or when the Engineer directs the use of special materials such as flexible base, cement-stabilized base, cement-stabilized backfill, or other special material, excavation below the footing grades will be paid for at \$10 per cubic yard. Payment for furnishing, hauling, placing, and compacting the flexible base, cement-stabilized base, cement-stabilized backfill, or other special materials will be made at the unit price bid for these Items, or, if the required material is not a bid Item, in accordance with Article 9.4, "Payment for Extra Work."

- C. Lowering of a Structure Foundation.** If the Engineer requires a structure foundation to be lowered to an elevation below the grade shown on the plans, overexcavation will be paid in accordance with Table 1.

**Table 1
Payment for Required Overexcavation**

Variance of revised footing grade from plan grade	Payment terms	Variance of revised footing grade from plan grade
	"Structural Excavation" is a bid item	"Structural Excavation" is not a bid item
Up to and including 5 ft.	Unit price equal to 115% of unit price bid for "Structural Excavation"	\$10 per cubic yard
Over 5 ft. up to 10 ft.	Unit price equal to 125% of unit price bid for "Structural Excavation"	\$12 per cubic yard
Over 10 ft.	In accordance with Article 9.4, "Payment for Extra Work"	

- D. Cement-Stabilized Backfill.** Cement-stabilized backfill will be paid for at the unit price bid for "Cement Stabilized Backfill."

- E. Cutting and Restoring Pavement.** Cutting and restoring pavement will be paid for at the unit price bid for "Cutting and Restoring Pavement." Work done to repair damage to base or pavement incurred outside the limits shown on the plans, or the limits authorized by the Engineer, will not be measured for payment.

The unit prices bid are full compensation for excavation including removing obstructions and plugging drainage systems; bedding and backfilling including placing, sprinkling and compaction of material; soundings; cleaning and filling seams; constructing and removing cofferdams; de-watering, sheeting, or bracing excavations up to and including 5 ft. deep; pumps; drills; explosives; disposition of surplus material; cutting pavement and base to neat lines; and materials, hauling, equipment, labor, tools, and incidentals.

Flowable backfill will be paid for as provided in Item 401, "Flowable Backfill." Protection methods for open excavations deeper than 5 ft. will be measured and paid for as required under Item 402, "Trench Excavation Protection," or Item 403, "Temporary Special Shoring."