

DEPTHS OF MAINS



The following information is provided to assist designers and constructors seeking to confirm the location of underground Sydney Water mains as part of design and again preparatory to commencing excavation works.

It is important to bear in mind that the levels of roads, footways and general ground surfaces are often altered as part of renewal, upgrading and development works carried out subsequent to installation of underground services. As a consequence, depths of mains can be substantially more or less than the original installation depth and need to be confirmed by hand excavation (potholing) on site.

Sydney Water's plans show depths **at the time of construction**—they are NOT necessarily adjusted to reflect any subsequent changes to surface levels.

Plans may be obtained by visiting www.dialbeforeyoudig.com.au.

Water Mains

Water mains are normally laid at 'standard' depths. The depth may be increased locally where it is necessary to accommodate stop valves, hydrants and other appurtenances. The depth of cover may also be increased in particular locations to suit an expected change in circumstances such as road (re)construction or surface level adjustment.

Indicative design covers for water mains is as set out in the table below:

| LOCATION | INDICATIVE DESIGN COVER (mm) [#] |
|---|---|
| Non-Roadways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General • Industrial/Commercial | 450-650 600-700 |
| Sealed Roads | 600-700 |
| Major Roadways/Embankments | 750 |
| Freeways | 1200 |

[#] depth from ground surface to top of pipe barrel

Sewers and Enclosed/Buried Stormwater Conduits

Because sewer and stormwater mains are generally designed for gravity flow, there is no 'standard' depth at which they are constructed. For each and every situation, design depth (and hence cover) needs to be ascertained from Sydney Water plans.