

Clearances between underground services

Minimum clearances between our buried pipes and other utility services

Water pipes

Proposed services	Minimum horizontal clearance between ² (mm)		Minimum vertical clearance between services ^{1,2} (mm)
	Existing pipe size		
	≤DN 200	>DN 200 to ≤DN 375 ³	
Water pipes ≤DN 375 ³	300	600	150
Electricity conduits and cables	1,000	1,000	225
Gas pipes Telecommunication conduits and cables Stormwater drains	300 ⁴	600	150
Wastewater pipes ⁵	1,000/600	1,000/600	500
Kerbs	300 ⁶	300 ⁶	N/A

Notes:

- Clearances apply in all situations except for welded steel water pipes where the distance from the nearest point of another utility service to the centre line of a welded steel water pipe must be at least half the required minimum trench width for the water pipe plus 600 mm (to provide access for welding). In special cases, we may consider reduced minimum clearances for which we'll advise specific requirements.
- If the existing water pipe is concrete encased or if the existing and/or proposed utility services are to be concrete encased you must measure the minimum clearances from the outside of the encasement.
- For water pipes larger than DN 375, seek advice on clearances from us.
- For installations such as poles, pits and small structures, you may reduce clearances to a water pipe to at least 150 mm for distances along the pipe of up to 2 m provided maintenance excavation work on the water pipe won't destabilise the structure.
- Wastewater pipes should always cross under water pipes. If there's no alternative and the wastewater pipe must cross over the water pipe, construction must meet Sydney Water's standards. When a wastewater pipe is to be located adjacent to and at the minimum vertical clearance depth below the level of a water pipe (500 mm), maintain minimum 1,000 mm horizontal clearance between the pipe barrels. You may progressively reduce the minimum horizontal clearance of 1,000 mm to 600 mm, as the difference in levels is increased to 750 mm.
- Measure clearances from kerbs from the outside of the barrel of the water pipe to the nearest point of the kerb.

Wastewater pipes and stormwater drains

Proposed services	Minimum horizontal clearance between ¹ (mm)		Minimum vertical clearance between services ^{1,2} (mm)
	Existing pipe size		
	≤DN 200	>DN 200 to ≤DN 375 ³	
Water pipes ²	1,000/600	1,000/600	500
Electricity conduits and cables	500	1,000	225/003
Gas pipes Telecommunication conduits and cables Stormwater drains	300	600	150/003

Notes:

1. If the existing wastewater pipe is concrete encased or either the existing and/or proposed utility services are to be concrete encased, measure the minimum clearances from the outside of the encasement.
2. Wastewater pipes should always cross under water pipes. If there's no alternative and the wastewater pipe must cross over the water pipe, construction must meet Sydney Water's standards. When a wastewater pipe is to be located adjacent to and at the minimum vertical clearance depth below the level of a water pipe (eg 500 mm), maintain minimum 1,000 mm horizontal clearance between the pipe barrels. You may progressively reduce the minimum horizontal clearance of 1,000 mm to 600 mm, as the difference in levels is increased to 750 mm.
3. A minimum vertical clearance of 300 mm applies if the size of either the existing or proposed service is >DN 300.