

Ditch, Dust and Backfill

Why Ditch, Dust and Backfill?

Ditch, dust and backfill is a process by which the developer provides a clean trench for the gas line. Peoples Gas Company LLC will install, test, and connect the gas mainline during a single visit to the job site. When finished, a thin layer of dust is applied over the mainline to prevent damage. The remainder of the ditch is then backfilled. Excavating the trench can be done in conjunction with your other utility installation, thus allowing greater flexibility in scheduling your work and minimizing your waiting time on utility crews.

The Ditch, Dust and Backfill Process

1. For the most trouble-free and reliable service, talk to Peoples Gas Company LLC at the start of your lot plan contouring. Following the ditch, dust and backfill specifications will clearly direct your excavation crew during service as well as mainline installation, and will minimize on-site confusion between utilities

2. This process reduces the timeline for completion of your project by giving you control over trenching, the biggest part of the mainline installation.

3. Adhering to these ditch, dust and backfill specifications from Peoples Gas Company LLC will ensure safe and accurate ditch installation and provide more assurance on meeting code compliance.

A. Uniformity of the ditch affords solid and continuous support of the mainline

B. Ditch depth at a minimum of 30" from the top of pipe to the final grade provides safe, worry-free installation.

C. The ditch must be free from debris.

D. Padding in the ditch must be comprised of approved, compacted material and placed 6 inches around the pipe.

E. Tracer wire will be placed along the same horizontal plane as the pipe for quick and easy location by Peoples Gas Company LLC personnel.

F. Warning tape must be placed 12 inches below the surface of the trench.

4. The proper use of select backfill materials insures that piping is protected from damage.

5. When you utilize the ditch, dust and backfill process, you remain in control of the project timeline for mainline installation and benefit from overall operating advantages.



Applicant shall use only operators qualified under federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requirements of 49 CFR Part 192 to new pipelines, including its Drug and Alcohol programs, for ditch, dust and backfill work.