



**ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS**

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**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL MANUAL BULLETIN 23-01**

**DATE:** February 27, 2023

**TO:** County Director of Engineering & Operations Department,  
County Director of Capital Programs Department,  
County Manager of Construction Services,  
County Director of Transportation Maintenance Division,  
County Project Managers, and Project Engineers of Record

**FROM:** County Engineer,  
County Director of Technical Services Division

**COPIES:** County Director of Performance Data and Analytics Department

**SUBJECT: MINIMUM PIPE COVER AND CLEARANCES FOR STORMWATER CULVERTS**

This bulletin specifies the minimum pipe cover and clearances for stormwater culverts.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum pipe cover for stormwater culverts must follow the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Drainage Manual, Appendix C: Cover Height Tables.

Refer to the Hillsborough County Water, Wastewater and Reclaimed Water Technical Manual for clearances between the outside surfaces of stormwater culverts and outside surfaces of Hillsborough County utility pipes. The minimum clearance between outside surfaces of stormwater culverts and other utilities or supply lines will be as directed in the technical design manuals for the specific utilities or suppliers (for example: gas, electric, telephone, cable TV, internet, signal interconnect, other municipality water, wastewater and reclaimed water, chilled water, hazardous liquid pipelines {fossil fuel, chemical}). If the utility or supplier does not have specific clearance between outside surface of their pipes or conduits, then the minimum clearance will be six (6) Inches between the outside surface of their utility pipe and the outside surface of Hillsborough County stormwater culvert.

Clearances within stormwater manholes will be as designated in the FDOT Standard Index 425-080.

Any variation from the above criteria will be handle through the Design Deviation Memorandum procedure.

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The above pipe cover direction and outside pipe surface clearances supersedes Section 8.2.12 and Table 8-5: Minimum Clearance Criteria for Pipe Culverts in Hillsborough County's Stormwater Management Technical Manual.

**BACKGROUND**

The minimum pipe cover clearance varies with the pipe materials and where it is measured from within the pavement structure. Table 8-5 County's Stormwater Management Technical Manual does not address this.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementation is the date of the County Engineer's signature.

**CONTACT**

Please use the email link below to address any questions or comments in reference to this Design Bulletin:

[PW-Standards Inquiry](#)

Recommended / Date:

Approved / Effective Date:

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Leland Dicus, Professional Engineer  
Technical Services Division Director

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Michael J. Williams, Professional Engineer  
County Engineer