

BELL SYSTEM PRACTICES
Outside Plant Construction
and Maintenance

SECTION G56.140
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Provisional Standard

BURIED CABLE
BACKFILLING

1. GENERAL

1.01 Backfilling may be done by hand or by machinery, depending on local conditions and the apparatus available. The general features of this work will be the same for any procedure.

1.02 The trench and the space outside the walls of manholes should be backfilled as soon as practicable. It will, of course, be desirable to leave the excavations open at splice points and buried manholes until all splicing and testing work has been completed. Under some conditions, however, there may be objections to leaving the splice points open for this length of time. In such cases it will be necessary either to backfill temporarily or cover them with planking. Before a splicing pit is temporarily backfilled a plank or some other form of mechanical protection should be placed over the cable to facilitate the re-excavation.

1.03 The backfilling shall conform to local regulations, if any are in effect for the particular locality. The work should be done in a manner that will minimize the maintenance of the route and maintain the coverage of the cable.

1.04 On private right-of-way the earth should be mounded over the trench to compensate for future settling. The backfill of a trench may in some cases be satisfactorily packed down by running a caterpillar tractor or where the soil conditions will permit the wheels of a truck, along the trench on top of the backfill. If the route is along a street or highway or in a location where piling the earth over the trench would be objectionable, the earth should be well tamped as it is placed in the trench. The best results will be obtained by machine tamping after each addition of a small amount of backfill.

1.05 Large lumps of frozen earth or pieces of rock should not be thrown into the bottom of the trench as they may damage the cable. A trench when filled with small material will also settle less than when filled with large pieces.

1.06 Where practicable the top soil should be replaced at the top of the trench. In backfilling across lawns the top soil and sod should be carefully replaced unless other arrangements have been made with the property owner.

1.07 If at the time of excavating, cinders are found in the soil they should be removed from the immediate vicinity of the cable location and should be replaced by clean soil or sand.

1.08 A drag backfiller will usually be attached to the plow for backfilling the small opening left when the cable is placed with the special plow. This backfill may be packed down by running a caterpillar tractor or where soil conditions will permit the wheels of a truck, over it.

1.09 On hillsides and at other locations where there is danger of the cable being washed out, ripraps or other means of holding the backfill should be placed as soon as the backfilling is completed.

1.10 All permanent pavement and sidewalks must be restored to the satisfaction of the proper authorities. When the backfilling is finished, clean up thoroughly.