



VAC-A-TEE® FAQ

What is the VAC-A-TEE®?

VAC-A-TEE® is a trenchless cleanout system. The lateral is located typically by a mainline camera that projects a satellite camera up into the lateral pipe. The satellite camera contains a sonde that transmits a frequency which can be pin-pointed from ground surface. When the lateral has been located, an approximate 18" in diameter bored hole is created by using water to cut the soil and a vacuum truck to remove the soil disposing it into a tanker. This is referred to as vacuum excavation.



Once the lateral pipe has been exposed through vacuum excavation, the patented PVC VAC-A-TEE® saddle is prepared and attached to an appropriate length riser pipe that is equal to the depth of the lateral pipe. Next, the installer applies a proprietary hybrid adhesive/sealant to the underside of the saddle. The saddle with a riser pipe is then introduced into the vacuum excavated hole and the saddle is snapped onto the lateral pipe by pressing downward on the riser pipe. The epoxy cures and forms a new water tight cleanout. The seal is tested to be water tight by filling the riser pipe with a minimum six-foot column of water verifying the connection is water tight. While the water is still in the riser pipe a diamond core saw is used to cut open the crown of the pipe. The VAC-A-TEE® system will work with a variety of pipes including VCP, Orange Burg, concrete, PVC, and cast iron. Restoration to the small vacuum excavation site completes the VAC-A-TEE® installation.

How is the VAC-A-TEE® Utilized?

VAC-A-TEE® is used as a cleanout. It is also used as an access point for CCTV inspection, a discharge point for steam when performing steam cured lateral lining installed from a main pipe, and an access point for installing test plugs into the lateral pipe either upstream or downstream of the cleanout. Lateral liners can also be inverted through the cleanout.

What Diameter Lateral Pipes will VAC-A-TEE® Work With?

It will work on pipes with a diameter from four inches through eight inches.

Will the VAC-A-TEE® Separate From the Pipe?

No. The patented snapping design keeps the VAC-A-TEE® connected to the pipe. Secondly, the VAC-A-TEE® adhesive/sealant is a high strength bonding agent that requires substrate failure of the host pipe in order to separate the saddle from the pipe. Thirdly, the backfill secures the saddle and riser pipe in place.





What Pipe Types are used for the Riser?

The VAC-A-TEE® riser adapter, or the saddle boss, comes standard to accept SDR 35 or 26 PVC pipes.



Can the VAC-A-TEE® be used as a WYE?

Yes, there is a WYE VAC-A-TEE saddle available upon special request. However, a WYE has many disadvantages. It can only clean in one direction, TV in one direction, and insert CIPP in one direction. Also, it cannot insert test plugs on the upstream side.

Will the VAC-A-TEE® Adhere to the Host Pipe in the Presence of Water?

Yes, the bonding agent cures in the presence of water.



How Deep can the Lateral Be?

The lateral can be up to 15 feet deep.

Will the VAC-A-TEE® Work in Sandy Soil with High Water Table?

Yes. In most situations a casing is sunk as the soil is evacuated exposing the lateral pipe. Well pointing may be necessary depending on the water level.

Can the Lateral Pipe Remain in Service During the Installation of VAC-A-TEE®?

Yes, there is no service interruption.

Is There a Need for grout?

No.

How is the Lateral Located?

One method for locating the lateral is to insert a camera with a sonde into the lateral from the main. The sonde transmits a signal that is detected by a locator above ground. Other methods include inserting a camera and sonde from a cleanout or access point within the building plumbing system.

What is used for Backfill?

Pea gravel, sand, or flowable fill is typically specified as approved fill in the annular space between the soil and riser pipe.

Where is the VAC-A-TEE® Installed in Relation to the Property Line or House?

The cleanouts are often set at the property line or adjacent to the building. This is typically dictated by where the lateral lining will terminate. For example, if the lateral were to be renewed by lining from the main to the property line, then the cleanout would be set at the property line. If the liner is going to be installed from the main to the building, then the cleanout would be located near the building.





How does the Truck to Reach by the House or in Backyards?

Most of the vacuum excavation work at the property line is performed with the vacuum truck parked in the street. When cleanouts are installed near the building or in backyard easements, plywood is laid on the lawn allowing the vacuum truck to have closer access or hoses are laid on top the ground and the bore hole is manually made with the vacuum hose.

What is the Average Cost of a VAC-A-TEE®?

VAC-A-TEE® is priced anywhere from \$600 to \$2,000, which is based on the variables of each installation, including quantity, access, depth, soil conditions, and surface restoration.

Can Other Adjacent Utilities be Damaged During the Installation of a VAC-A-TEE®?

Typically, no damages occur. The vacuum excavation commonly referred to as a soft dig exposes buried utilities such as water, gas, electric, or communication lines with no damage.

How many can be installed in one day?

A daily average is six VAC-A-TEES® completed with restoration.

What is the typical homeowner's response to VAC-A-TEE®?

Most homeowners are not only amazed at the trenchless installation method, but are pleased that the root system of their surrounding trees is not damaged. Also sidewalks, landscaped areas, retaining walls, and driveways are not torn up. They appreciate the quick installation and the fact that the disruption is barely noticeable, if at all.

