

Hit The Mark

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The mark is the insertion mark that comes on the spigot end of every full length of gasketed PVC pipe. The prize is the best pipe joint available in the water and sewer industry. PVC pipe's gasketed joints have long been recognized as the superior performer due to joint integrity, flexibility, and forgiveness in service.

One major reason for the success of PVC's joining system is the ease with which it is accomplished. The installer knows to clean the joint, lube, align, and slide the spigot to the insertion mark.

Figure 1 shows a properly assembled joint. Note that this installer "Hit the Mark." The insertion line is showing just at the lip of the bell. The cutaway (Figure 2) provides a better look at the gap between the bevel of the spigot and the back of the bell. This gap is critical to allow for flexibility and expansion and contraction during the life of the system.

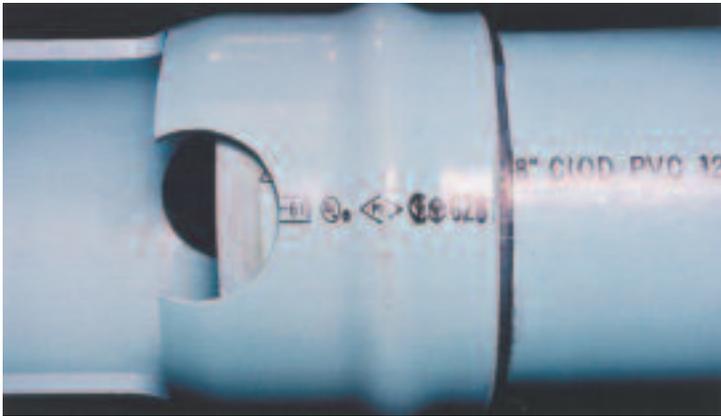


Figure 1: Properly Inserted Spigot



Figure 3: Over Inserted Spigot

CRITICAL BUT SIMPLE

When installers "Hit the Mark", they can see that they did. If the insertion mark is not visible after assembly, the pipe was over-inserted or homed. The joint needs to be disassembled and done correctly. Likewise, if the mark falls well short of the lip of the bell, the installer can see to push a little further until the mark is aligned.

A few installers, however, seem to think that PVC is so forgiving that there are NO rules for the proper installation. They are wrong. Figures 3 and 4 show pipes that have been over-inserted and severely over-inserted, respectively. Here, the cutaway shows that the joint has no flexibility, cannot expand and, in fact, can be under substantial stress. In pressure pipe, these stresses are additive to hydrostatic stresses and there is the potential that bells can fail due to over-insertion.

That's why it's up to everyone to see that the job is done right.

Obviously, the choice is clear. "Hit the Mark" and everybody wins; the installer, the utility, and the manufacturer are all winners because the benefits designed into the pipe are delivered to the user.

Easy to do, easy to check, and well worth the effort. Just "Hit the Mark" and everyone is a winner!



Figure 2: Gap for Properly Inserted Spigot



Figure 4: Severe Over Insertion of Spigot