

5 EASY STEPS TO PROPERLY USING AN OD TAPE

WHAT IS AN OD (OUTSIDE DIAMETER) TAPE?

Because Ductile iron pipe walls have a thickness to them, they have an inside diameter (ID) and an outside diameter (OD) that are slightly different. An OD tape measures the OD. The OD is larger than the ID by double the thickness of the pipe wall. The OD stays consistent through the different classes of pipe because most appurtenances that connect to pipe attach to the outside of the pipe. For those appurtenances to fit correctly, the OD must be within a specific range. Using an OD tape is a reliable way to measure the OD to ensure the pipe is within proper range. For a helpful video on "How to Use an OD Tape," see our blog at McWaneDuctile.com/blog.



CLEAN PIPE

Remove any dirt or mud from the section of pipe you are measuring. A wire brush can help loosen packed debris. You must have a clean barrel to get a good measurement.



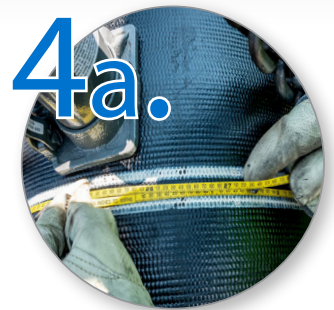
WRAP TAPE

Wrap the tape around the outside of the pipe. Most OD tapes have markings on both sides of the tape with one side being imperial inches and the other side in 3.142-long segments broken down into 100ths.



ENSURE TAPE IS STRAIGHT

Bring the two ends of the tape up in front of you. Take the slack out of the tape around the pipe. The tape must be wrapped straight around the pipe. Do not measure if tape is slanted.



COMPARE

Lay the two ends of the tape on the pipe so they pass each other and are directly next to each other. Compare the starting line (0.00) on the tape to the mark it corresponds with on the opposite tape. Each mark is 1/100th of an inch. The mark that it corresponds to is your average outside diameter at that point on the pipe.



EXAMPLE

For example, the outside diameter range of a 16" pipe is 17.32 on the low side and 17.45 inches on the high side. You can see that this particular spot on this 16" pipe has an average diameter of 17.42 inches. You can easily find the range for any given pipe size using our OD & ID Calculator at pe.mcwane.com



CUT PIPE

If the measurement falls within the prescribed range, this would be a good place to cut the pipe or place a saddle, etc. Taking just a few minutes to use an OD tape could potentially save you hours. For more detailed instructions and a video, see our "How to Cut Ductile Iron Pipe" blog at McWaneDuctile.com/Blog.

An OD Tape typically has markings on both sides as shown here:



DUCTILE IRON PIPE OUTSIDE DIAMETER CHART				
NOMINAL PIPE SIZE IN.	MIN. PIPE DIAMETER IN.	MAX. PIPE DIAMETER IN.	MIN. PIPE CIRCUMFERENCE IN.	MAX. PIPE CIRCUMFERENCE IN.
3	3.90	4.02	12-1/4	12-5/8
4	4.74	4.86	14-29/32	15-9/32
6	6.84	6.96	21-1/2	21-7/8
8	8.99	9.11	28-1/4	28-5/8
10	11.04	11.16	34-11/16	35-1/16
12	13.14	13.26	41-9/32	41-21/32
14	15.22	15.35	47-13/16	48-7/32
16	17.32	17.45	54-13/32	54-13/16
18	19.42	19.55	61	61-13/32
20	21.52	21.65	67-19/32	68
24	25.72	25.85	80-13/16	81-7/32
30	31.94	32.08	100-11/32	100-25/32
36	38.24	38.38	120-1/8	120-9/16