



Excavations

The word **MUST** means it is a mandatory requirement. Where you see the words **YOUR CALL** it means you are strongly advised to do this, but you can use your judgement.



In-ground services

When undertaking any excavations, you **MUST** ensure that all the required notifications and permits have been issued prior to any ground penetrating or excavation works.

The location of all essential services (underground, adjacent and overhead) **MUST** be positively identified. Please refer to our Essentials guide for 'Avoiding Underground Services' for more detailed information.

Where possible, any services in close proximity to the excavation **MUST** be isolated.

All essential services **MUST** be protected from mechanical damage.

Preventing instability

Where relevant, controls to ensure the integrity of adjacent buildings or structures **MUST** be implemented and maintained.

You **MUST** seek the advice of a Geotechnical Engineer wherever there is risk of ground collapse.

Shoring/benching and battering **MUST** be installed and implemented as per geotechnical design.

Regular inspections **MUST** be conducted to confirm the excavation's integrity, at a minimum perform a daily inspection before starting work, consideration **MUST** be given to the risk of the excavation being undertaken.

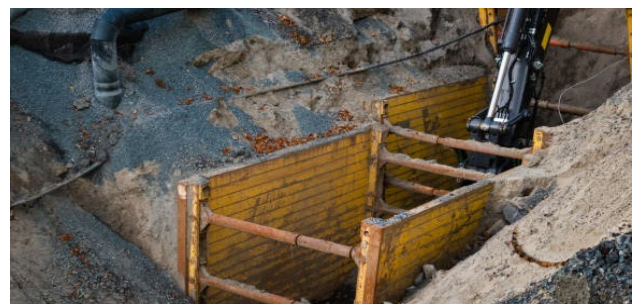
Deep excavations

Suitable barriers and warning signs **MUST** be in place where any person or plant is at risk in the excavation area.

Safe access/egress into excavations deeper than 1.5m **MUST** be provided.

Controls preventing objects from falling on workers in deep excavations **MUST** be in place. Controls may include, but are not limited to:

- trench box sheets extending beyond the trench depth
- covers or guard rails and toe boards.





Essential guide: our Critical Risk expectations

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Ingress/contamination

Processes **MUST** be in place to manage contaminated spoil like asbestos or hydrocarbons. Consideration **MUST** be given to the prevention of worker exposure.

The risk of atmospheric contamination in excavations **MUST** be identified and controlled (including build-up of gases and fumes).

Possible water sources **MUST** be identified, and controls are to be implemented.

A sediment environmental control plan **MUST** be in place where a risk to the environment has been identified.

Working near excavations

Excavated soil **MUST** be placed away from the edge of the excavation so that it does not pose an additional risk.

You **MUST** reduce the risk to those working in or near the excavation by limiting access to plant, equipment, and materials directly involved with the work.

Controls that ensure mobile plant can maintain a safe distance from live services **MUST** be in place (including overhead power lines).

Barriers **MUST** be used in areas adjacent to excavations with frequent mobile plant or pedestrian movement.

Establishing work zones

Controls preventing the unauthorised access to excavation areas **MUST** be in place.

The site conditions and the nature of works **MUST** be considered when determining the barrier type to be used:

- where an excavation is up to 1m deep, it's **YOUR CALL** but consider using bunting/flagging, or barrier mesh
- more suitable barrier types such as water-filled barriers, or 1.8 metre high interlockable hard fencing **MUST** be used for excavations greater than 1 metre deep
- all barriers **MUST** have appropriate signage and be at least 1 metre from the edge of the excavation (regardless of depth)
- excavation sites **MUST** be isolated and made safe when not in use or at the end of each day.

It's **YOUR CALL** but consider the use of a safety observer if the risks associated with the excavation are deemed as high.



For more detailed guidance, please refer to the associated Standard on the Protectatcontact Website.

protectatcontact.co.nz

Protecting the important stuff