

## *Trenching and Tracer Wire Installation*

### **4.2 Trenching**

The minimum required depth for buried pipe will be specified by local code, and may range from as shallow as 12 inches to as deep as 24 inches. The width of the trench should be sufficient for the width of the widest fitting. A 12 inch wide trench will allow for sufficient clearance of the pipe and fittings. The bottom of the trench should be smooth and flat. The plumbing code requirements at the installation location must be followed.

Keep in mind that trench depth requirements are measured from ground level to the top of the piping system, including the fittings. For example, if the minimum required depth, or amount of cover, per code is 18 inches and 1-inch pipe is being installed, the trench depth will be a minimum of 20.68 inches (18 inches plus the fitting depth of 2.68 inches). Fitting depth information can be found in Section 2.2 (p. 5). Be sure that trenches comply with your local code requirements.

#### ***Underground Piping Detectability Requirements***

In the trench next to the gas pipe, install a 14 gauge or thicker insulated copper tracer wire. This wire will make the underground routing of the poly gas pipe detectable from above ground. The ends of the tracer wire should follow the riser above ground and be visible for future use. Some locations may also require the installation of plastic caution tape to be buried in the trench several inches above the gas pipe. Consult the local code at the installation location to ensure compliance with piping detectability requirements.



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