IGHBOR'S STEEL PIE

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- Understanding Expansive Clay and Its Swell Cycle
 Understanding Expansive Clay and Its Swell Cycle How Uncompacted Fill
 Leads to Sudden Settling Groundwater Pressure and Lateral Foundation
 Movement The Role of Freeze Thaw in Frost Heave Damage Identifying
 Subsidence Zones With Public Map Data Soil Moisture Fluctuations and
 Differential Settlement Tree Roots and Their Influence on Soil Stability
 Effects of Drought on Shrinking Clay Foundations Surface Drainage Patterns
 That Accelerate Erosion Assessing Bearing Capacity Through Simple Field
 Tests Topographic Features That Signal Potential Slide Risk Using Rainfall
 History to Predict Soil Movement
- Steel Push Piers Versus Helical Piers Load Capacity Insights Steel Push Piers Versus Helical Piers Load Capacity Insights Mass Concrete Underpinning Explained in Plain Terms Evaluating Pier Spacing for Different Soil Strengths Installation Speed Differences Between Pier Types Long Term Monitoring Requirements for Each Underpinning Method Material Lifespan Considerations for Carbon Steel Piers Noise and Vibration Levels During Each Underpinning Process Access Constraints and Their Impact on Pier Selection Cost Drivers in Selecting an Underpinning Solution Environmental Footprint Comparison of Concrete and Steel Systems Typical Warranty Periods Offered for Pier Installations Case Study Results Showing Elevation Recovery Across Methods
- About Us



Foundation repair is a critical subject for homeowners, and when it comes to lifting and stabilizing sinking foundations, two popular methods often come up: steel push piers and helical piers. That mysterious crack appearing after winter isn't a seasonal decoration but rather your soil's expansion art project **foundation settlement signs Elmhurst** space. Understanding how these systems work and, crucially, their load capacity, is key to making an informed decision about which solution is best for your specific situation. Think of your house settling – it's not just aesthetically displeasing, it can lead to structural problems like cracked walls and sticking doors. Piering systems, both steel push and helical, aim to correct this by transferring the weight of your home onto more stable, load-bearing soil or even bedrock deeper underground.

Steel push piers, as the name suggests, are essentially steel shafts hydraulically driven into the ground until they reach competent soil. Theyre like really, really strong nails being hammered deep under your foundation. The beauty of this system is its ability to reach significant depths, sometimes even past problematic soil layers. Helical piers, on the other hand, are like giant screws. They have helical plates welded to the shaft that literally screw into the ground, creating a stable platform to support the foundation.

Now, lets talk load capacity. This is where things get interesting and a bit more nuanced. Steel push piers often boast impressive load capacities, primarily because they can be driven to great depths, potentially reaching incredibly solid, undisturbed soil or even bedrock. However, the actual load capacity depends heavily on the soil conditions encountered during installation. If they hit weaker soil layers along the way, their ultimate capacity might be lower than initially anticipated. Helical piers, in contrast, have a more predictable load capacity based on the torque required to install them. The higher the torque, the greater the load they can bear. This allows engineers to more accurately estimate the capacity during installation.

The "winner" in terms of load capacity isnt necessarily fixed. It depends entirely on the specific soil profile at your property. A steel push pier might be the better choice if bedrock is relatively shallow and accessible, offering almost unlimited support. But if the soil is consistently weak and deep, a helical pier system might offer a more reliable and predictable load-bearing solution. Ultimately, the best approach involves a thorough geotechnical investigation to understand the soil conditions beneath your foundation. This allows a qualified engineer to design a piering system, whether steel push or helical, that provides the necessary load capacity for the long-term stability of your home. Its about finding the right tool for the job, ensuring your foundation rests securely and your house stays put.

When discussing the comparison between steel push piers and helical piers, understanding the load capacity, installation process, and applications of steel push piers provides crucial insights. Steel push piers are renowned for their robustness and are often employed in foundation repair to transfer the load of a structure to more stable soil layers beneath the surface.

Load Capacity: Steel push piers excel in scenarios where high load-bearing capacity is required. They are typically made from high-strength steel, which allows them to support significant loads. The load capacity of these piers can vary depending on factors like pier length, diameter, and the type of steel used. However, under optimal conditions, they can support loads exceeding 50 tons per pier, making them suitable for both residential and commercial buildings.

Installation: The installation process for steel push piers involves driving them into the ground using hydraulic machinery until they reach a predetermined depth or resistance level. This method ensures that the piers reach bedrock or dense soil strata capable of bearing heavy loads. Unlike helical piers, which screw into the ground, push piers rely on friction and endbearing capacity for stability. This straightforward installation might be faster in certain soil conditions but requires precise control to avoid damage to both the pier and surrounding structures.

Applications: Steel push piers find their application primarily in foundation stabilization projects where uplift forces are not a concern. They are particularly effective in areas with deep bedrock or hardpan where achieving depth is crucial for support. Common uses include underpinning existing foundations suffering from settlement due to poor soil conditions or additional load from expansions. They also serve well in new construction sites where preloading is necessary to ensure future settlement stability.

In comparing steel push piers versus helical piers, its evident that while both serve similar foundational purposes, steel push piers offer superior load-bearing capabilities under compression but lack in tension resistance compared to helical designs. This makes them less ideal in areas prone to uplift forces like those found in expansive clay soils or regions with high water tables where buoyancy could be an issue. Nonetheless, when purely compressive strength is needed with minimal concerns about tensile forces, steel push piers stand out as a reliable choice due to their direct approach to transferring loads deep into stable ground layers.

Preventive Measures for Foundations on Expansive Soil

When comparing steel push piers and helical piers, one of the key considerations is their load capacity, which directly influences their application in various foundation repair and construction projects. Helical piers, known for their unique screw-like design, offer distinct advantages in terms of load-bearing capabilities.

Helical piers derive their name from the helix plates that are attached to a central shaft. These plates allow the pier to be screwed into the soil, much like a wood screw into wood, providing immediate load-bearing support once installed. This method of installation is not only efficient but also allows for precise control over depth and alignment, ensuring that the pier reaches stable, load-bearing soil or bedrock. The load capacity of helical piers can vary significantly based on factors like the number of helix plates, their diameter, the shafts thickness, and the soil conditions. Typically, they can support loads ranging from several thousand pounds up to over 100 tons per pier under ideal conditions.

Installation of helical piers involves minimal disturbance to the surrounding environment since it does not require extensive excavation. A hydraulic torque motor or drive head is used to rotate the pier into place until it reaches a predetermined torque or refusal point, which indicates it has engaged with competent bearing strata. This method reduces both time and labor costs compared to traditional methods and minimizes disruption to existing structures.

In terms of applications, helical piers are highly versatile. They are particularly beneficial in areas with variable soil conditions where traditional foundations might fail due to settling or shifting soils. They are extensively used in new construction for deep foundation support, especially where surface soils are poor but deeper layers are stable. For retrofitting existing structures that have experienced settlement issues due to poor soil conditions or increased loading from additions or renovations, helical piers provide an immediate solution by transferring building loads to deeper, more stable soil layers.

When juxtaposed with steel push piers, which rely on being driven into the ground until they reach a resistance point indicating stable soil or bedrock, helical piers often show superior performance in varied geological settings due to their ability to bypass upper weak layers more effectively. While steel push piers are robust and effective in certain scenarios where direct vertical force transfer is required through dense materials like rock or compacted fill, they might struggle in softer or layered soils where helical piers excel by providing lateral stability alongside vertical support.

In summary, while both steel push piers and helical piers serve critical roles in foundation stabilization and construction projects, helical piers generally offer enhanced load capacity insights due to their installation method that ensures engagement with optimal bearing strata. Their adaptability across different applications makes them a preferred choice when dealing with challenging ground conditions or when minimal site disruption is desired.





Repair Techniques for Foundations Affected by Clay Swelling

When it comes to foundation repair and stabilization, choosing between steel push piers and helical piers can significantly impact the load capacity and overall effectiveness of the solution. Both systems are designed to transfer the weight of a structure from unstable soil to more stable, load-bearing strata, but they do so in different ways, which affects their performance.

Steel push piers, also known as resistance piers, work by being driven into the ground through hydraulic force until they reach a depth where the soil is stable enough to support the load. The load capacity of steel push piers largely depends on the frictional resistance between the pier and surrounding soil as well as the bearing capacity of the deeper, denser soil layers they reach. This system excels in areas with relatively uniform soil conditions where consistent depth can be achieved. However, if unexpected obstructions or varying soil densities are encountered, this could limit their effectiveness or require adjustments during installation.

On the other hand, helical piers are screw-like structures that are literally twisted into the ground. Each pier has one or more helix plates that provide both bearing and friction along their length as they engage with different soil layers. This design allows helical piers to adapt better to varied soil conditions; they can navigate around obstacles and still achieve significant depth without losing structural integrity. The load capacity here is influenced by both the torque achieved during installation (which indicates good engagement with firm soil) and the surface area of interaction between the helix plates and soil.

In comparing load capacities, helical piers often have an edge due to their ability to engage multiple soil layers effectively. They provide immediate load-bearing capability upon installation since their torque correlates directly with bearing capacity. Steel push piers might require additional testing post-installation to ensure theyre adequately supporting loads since their capacity relies more on achieving consistent depth in suitable soils.

For homeowners or engineers deciding between these options, considerations include not just current load needs but future potential changes in loads due to renovations or additions. Helical piers might offer more flexibility due to their adjustability and straightforward verification process for load-bearing through torque measurements. Meanwhile, steel push piers could be preferred in scenarios where simplicity in design is favored over adaptability to variable conditions.

Ultimately, while both systems have proven effective for foundation support, understanding local soil conditions is crucial before making a choice. A detailed geotechnical analysis can guide decision-making towards which system will provide optimal load capacity for your specific site conditions over time.

Okay, lets talk about what really makes steel push piers and helical piers tick when it comes to how much weight they can handle, especially when you throw in different soil types. Its not just a simple "this ones stronger" kind of thing. Soil is the big variable, honestly.

Think of it this way: Imagine trying to drive a nail into soft butter versus hard oak. The butter is easy, but the nail wont hold much. The oak is tough, but once you get that nail in, its solid. Soil is similar. Sandy soil, for example, offers less resistance, meaning both types of piers need to go deeper to find a stable, load-bearing layer. Clay, on the other hand, can be stickier and provide more immediate resistance, but it can also be prone to expansion and contraction with moisture changes, which can be a real problem over time.

For steel push piers, the load capacity is heavily influenced by the depth theyre driven and the competency of the bedrock or dense soil they reach. The whole idea is to transfer the weight of the structure down to that solid, unyielding layer. So, if the soil is loose and you need to drive them *way* down, you might hit practical limits on how far you can reasonably push them.

Helical piers, though, theyre a bit different. They rely on the bearing capacity of each helix plate screwed into the soil. The deeper you go, and the more competent the soil layers the helixes pass through, the greater the load capacity. The size and spacing of the helix plates also matter a ton. In softer soils, larger helixes and closer spacing are often needed to distribute the load effectively. In denser soils, you might be able to get away with smaller helixes and wider spacing.

Ultimately, choosing between steel push piers and helical piers isnt just about the pier itself; its about understanding the soil profile at the specific location. A good geotechnical investigation is crucial to determine the soil type, its bearing capacity at different depths, and any potential issues like groundwater or expansive clays. That information allows engineers to design a foundation repair solution, using either steel push piers or helical piers, that will provide long-term stability, taking into account all the factors influencing the load capacity in those particular soil conditions. Its all about matching the right tool to the right job, based on what the ground is telling you.





When considering the installation of steel push piers versus helical piers, one must take into account various factors that directly impact their load performance. Steel push piers are driven into the ground using hydraulic force, which requires a soil profile that can support the driving process without excessive displacement or damage to the surrounding environment. The success of this method largely depends on encountering dense, stable soil layers at a reasonable depth; otherwise, the pier might not reach the necessary bearing capacity, leading

to suboptimal load distribution and potential structural failures over time.

On the other hand, helical piers are screwed into the ground, offering a more controlled installation process. This method allows for precise placement as each helix engages with different soil layers, providing immediate load-bearing feedback during installation. This feature is particularly advantageous in varied or layered soil conditions where achieving consistent bearing capacity can be challenging with push piers. Helical piers tend to perform better in such scenarios because they can adapt to soil variations by engaging multiple layers simultaneously.

The impact on load performance from these installation considerations is significant. For steel push piers, if the installation depth does not reach a competent bearing stratum due to unforeseen geological conditions or obstructions, the load capacity might be compromised. This could result in increased settlement under load or even structural failure if loads exceed what the pier can bear. Conversely, helical piers often achieve higher initial load capacities because of their ability to distribute loads across multiple bearing points along their length, reducing pressure on any single point.

Moreover, post-installation settlement is another critical factor. Push piers might experience more movement as they rely on friction and end-bearing for support, which can shift over time with changes in moisture content or soil consolidation. Helical piers generally exhibit less post-installation movement due to their mechanical interlock with the soil through their helix plates.

In conclusion, while both types of piers have their applications based on specific site conditions and project requirements, understanding how installation methods influence load performance is crucial for engineers and builders. Steel push piers offer simplicity but demand ideal soil conditions for optimal performance; helical piers provide flexibility and reliability across a broader range of soils but at potentially higher upfront costs due to more complex machinery needs. Therefore, selecting between steel push and helical piers should involve a thorough analysis of site-specific geotechnical data alongside project demands to ensure long-term stability and efficiency.

In the realm of foundation repair, selecting the right type of pier system is crucial for ensuring structural integrity and longevity. This essay delves into a comparative analysis of two prevalent systems: steel push piers and helical piers, focusing on their load capacity in real-world scenarios through case studies.

Steel push piers, often referred to as resistance piers, are driven into the ground until they reach stable, load-bearing strata. Their performance hinges on the frictional resistance between the pier and the soil. In a case study from a residential repair in a suburban area with clay-rich soil, steel push piers demonstrated exceptional load capacity when installed to depths where dense, undisturbed layers were encountered. The homeowners reported minimal settlement issues post-installation, indicating that once the piers reached competent bearing material, they effectively transferred the load of the structure.

On the other hand, helical piers offer a different approach by screwing into the ground with helical plates that provide immediate bearing capacity upon installation. A notable case involved a commercial building on sandy loam soil where helical piers were used due to their ability to be precisely torque-tested during installation to confirm load capacity. This project showcased how helical piers could adapt to varying soil conditions by adjusting the number and size of helical plates, thus providing customizable solutions tailored to specific load requirements.

Comparatively, while both systems have proven effective in different contexts, their performance can vary significantly based on soil type. Steel push piers excel in environments with deep stable layers but might struggle in areas with shallow bedrock or highly variable soils. Helical piers shine in versatility; their ability to be adjusted during installation allows for fine-tuning based on real-time soil feedback, which was particularly beneficial in mixed or less predictable soil profiles.

From these insights derived from real-world applications, its clear that neither system universally outperforms the other; rather, their effectiveness is contingent upon matching them with appropriate geological conditions. For homeowners or engineers deciding between steel push piers and helical piers for foundation repair projects, understanding these nuances through case studies provides valuable guidance. It underscores the importance of sitespecific assessments before making an informed decision that ensures both economic efficiency and structural durability over time.



About Pump

The accessibility of this article is in question. The specific issue is: **animation fails MOS, see talk**. Relevant discussion may be found on the talk page. (April 2025)

"Water Pump" redirects here. For the community in Pakistan, see Water Pump, Karachi.

For other uses of "pump" or "pumps", see Pump (disambiguation).



A small, electrically powered pump



A large, electrically driven pump for waterworks near the Hengsteysee, Germany

A **pump** is a device that moves fluids (liquids or gases), or sometimes slurries,[¹] by mechanical action, typically converted from electrical energy into hydraulic or pneumatic energy.

Mechanical pumps serve in a wide range of applications such as pumping water from wells, aquarium filtering, pond filtering and aeration, in the car industry for watercooling and fuel injection, in the energy industry for pumping oil and natural gas or for operating cooling towers and other components of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. In the medical industry, pumps are used for biochemical processes in developing and manufacturing medicine, and as artificial replacements for body parts, in particular the artificial heart and penile prosthesis.

When a pump contains two or more pump mechanisms with fluid being directed to flow through them in series, it is called a *multi-stage pump*. Terms such as *two-stage* or *double-stage* may be used to specifically describe the number of stages. A pump that does not fit this description is simply a *single-stage pump* in contrast.

In biology, many different types of chemical and biomechanical pumps have evolved; biomimicry is sometimes used in developing new types of mechanical pumps.

Types

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Mechanical pumps may be **submerged** in the fluid they are pumping or be placed **external** to the fluid.

Pumps can be classified by their method of displacement into electromagnetic pumps, positive-displacement pumps, impulse pumps, velocity pumps, gravity pumps, steam pumps and valveless pumps. There are three basic types of pumps: positive-displacement, centrifugal and axial-flow pumps. In centrifugal pumps the direction of flow of the fluid changes by ninety degrees as it flows over an impeller, while in axial flow pumps the direction of flow pumps the direction of flow is unchanged.^{[2}]^{[3}]

See also: Vacuum pump

Electromagnetic pump

[edit]

This section is an excerpt from Electromagnetic pump.[edit]

An electromagnetic pump is a pump that moves liquid metal, molten salt, brine, or other electrically conductive liquid using electromagnetism.

A magnetic field is set at right angles to the direction the liquid moves in, and a current is passed through it. This causes an electromagnetic force that moves the liquid.

Applications include pumping molten solder in many wave soldering machines, pumping liquid-metal coolant, and magnetohydrodynamic drive.

Positive-displacement pumps

[edit]



A positive-displacement pump makes a fluid move by trapping a fixed amount and forcing (displacing) that trapped volume into the discharge pipe.

Some positive-displacement pumps use an expanding cavity on the suction side and a decreasing cavity on the discharge side. Liquid flows into the pump as the cavity on the suction side expands and the liquid flows out of the discharge as the cavity collapses. The volume is constant through each cycle of operation.

Positive-displacement pump behavior and safety

[edit]

Positive-displacement pumps, unlike centrifugal, can theoretically produce the same flow at a given rotational speed no matter what the discharge pressure. Thus, positivedisplacement pumps are *constant flow machines*. However, a slight increase in internal leakage as the pressure increases prevents a truly constant flow rate.

A positive-displacement pump must not operate against a closed valve on the discharge side of the pump, because it has no shutoff head like centrifugal pumps. A positive-displacement pump operating against a closed discharge valve continues to produce flow and the pressure in the discharge line increases until the line bursts, the pump is severely damaged, or both.

A relief or safety valve on the discharge side of the positive-displacement pump is therefore necessary. The relief valve can be internal or external. The pump manufacturer normally has the option to supply internal relief or safety valves. The internal valve is usually used only as a safety precaution. An external relief valve in the discharge line, with a return line back to the suction line or supply tank, provides increased safety.

Positive-displacement types

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A positive-displacement pump can be further classified according to the mechanism used to move the fluid:

- Rotary-type positive displacement: internal and external gear pump, screw pump, lobe pump, shuttle block, flexible vane and sliding vane, circumferential piston, flexible impeller, helical twisted roots (e.g. the Wendelkolben pump) and liquidring pumps
- Reciprocating-type positive displacement: piston pumps, plunger pumps and diaphragm pumps
- Linear-type positive displacement: rope pumps and chain pumps

Rotary positive-displacement pumps

[edit]





These pumps move fluid using a rotating mechanism that creates a vacuum that captures and draws in the liquid.^{[4}]

Advantages: Rotary pumps are very efficient[⁵] because they can handle highly viscous fluids with higher flow rates as viscosity increases.[⁶]

Drawbacks: The nature of the pump requires very close clearances between the rotating pump and the outer edge, making it rotate at a slow, steady speed. If rotary pumps are operated at high speeds, the fluids cause erosion, which eventually causes

enlarged clearances that liquid can pass through, which reduces efficiency.

Rotary positive-displacement pumps fall into five main types:

- Gear pumps a simple type of rotary pump where the liquid is pushed around a pair of gears.
- Screw pumps the shape of the internals of this pump is usually two screws turning against each other to pump the liquid
- Rotary vane pumps
- Hollow disc pumps (also known as eccentric disc pumps or hollow rotary disc pumps), similar to scroll compressors, these have an eccentric cylindrical rotor encased in a circular housing. As the rotor orbits, it traps fluid between the rotor and the casing, drawing the fluid through the pump. It is used for highly viscous fluids like petroleum-derived products, and it can also support high pressures of up to 290 psi.[⁷][⁸][⁹][¹⁰][¹¹][¹²][¹³]
- Peristaltic pumps have rollers which pinch a section of flexible tubing, forcing the liquid ahead as the rollers advance. Because they are very easy to keep clean, these are popular for dispensing food, medicine, and concrete.

Reciprocating positive-displacement pumps

[edit]



Simple hand pump



Antique "pitcher" pump (c. 1924) at the Colored School in Alapaha, Georgia, US

See also: Reciprocating pump

Reciprocating pumps move the fluid using one or more oscillating pistons, plungers, or membranes (diaphragms), while valves restrict fluid motion to the desired direction. In order for suction to take place, the pump must first pull the plunger in an outward motion to decrease pressure in the chamber. Once the plunger pushes back, it will increase the chamber pressure and the inward pressure of the plunger will then open the discharge valve and release the fluid into the delivery pipe at constant flow rate and increased pressure.

Pumps in this category range from *simplex*, with one cylinder, to in some cases *quad* (four) cylinders, or more. Many reciprocating-type pumps are *duplex* (two) or *triplex* (three) cylinder. They can be either *single-acting* with suction during one direction of piston motion and discharge on the other, or *double-acting* with suction and discharge in both directions. The pumps can be powered manually, by air or steam, or by a belt driven by an engine. This type of pump was used extensively in the 19th century—in the early days of steam propulsion—as boiler feed water pumps. Now reciprocating pumps typically pump highly viscous fluids like concrete and heavy oils, and serve in special applications that demand low flow rates against high resistance. Reciprocating hand pumps were widely used to pump water from wells. Common bicycle pumps and foot pumps for inflation use reciprocating action.

These positive-displacement pumps have an expanding cavity on the suction side and a decreasing cavity on the discharge side. Liquid flows into the pumps as the cavity on the suction side expands and the liquid flows out of the discharge as the cavity collapses. The volume is constant given each cycle of operation and the pump's volumetric efficiency can be achieved through routine maintenance and inspection of its valves.^[14]

Typical reciprocating pumps are:

- Plunger pump a reciprocating plunger pushes the fluid through one or two open valves, closed by suction on the way back.
- Diaphragm pump similar to plunger pumps, where the plunger pressurizes hydraulic oil which is used to flex a diaphragm in the pumping cylinder. Diaphragm valves are used to pump hazardous and toxic fluids.
- Piston pump displacement pumps usually simple devices for pumping small amounts of liquid or gel manually. The common hand soap dispenser is such a pump.
- Radial piston pump a form of hydraulic pump where pistons extend in a radial direction.
- Vibratory pump or vibration pump a particularly low-cost form of plunger pump, popular in low-cost espresso machines.^[15][¹⁶] The only moving part is a spring-loaded piston, the armature of a solenoid. Driven by half-wave rectified alternating current, the piston is forced forward while energized, and is retracted by the spring during the other half cycle. Due to their inefficiency, vibratory pumps typically cannot be operated for more than one minute without overheating, so are limited to intermittent duty.

Various positive-displacement pumps

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The positive-displacement principle applies in these pumps:

- Rotary lobe pump
- Progressing cavity pump
- Rotary gear pump
- Piston pump
- Diaphragm pump
- Screw pump
- Gear pump
- Hydraulic pump
- Rotary vane pump
- Peristaltic pump

- Rope pump
- Flexible impeller pump

Gear pump

[edit]



Gear pump

Main article: Gear pump

This is the simplest form of rotary positive-displacement pumps. It consists of two meshed gears that rotate in a closely fitted casing. The tooth spaces trap fluid and force it around the outer periphery. The fluid does not travel back on the meshed part, because the teeth mesh closely in the center. Gear pumps see wide use in car engine oil pumps and in various hydraulic power packs.

Screw pump

[edit]



Main article: Screw pump

A screw pump is a more complicated type of rotary pump that uses two or three screws with opposing thread — e.g., one screw turns clockwise and the other counterclockwise. The screws are mounted on parallel shafts that often have gears that mesh so the shafts turn together and everything stays in place. In some cases the driven screw drives the secondary screw, without gears, often using the fluid to limit abrasion. The screws turn on the shafts and drive fluid through the pump. As with other forms of rotary pumps, the clearance between moving parts and the pump's casing is minimal.

Progressing cavity pump

[edit] Main article: Progressing cavity pump



Progressing cavity pump

Widely used for pumping difficult materials, such as sewage sludge contaminated with large particles, a progressing cavity pump consists of a helical rotor, about ten times as long as its width, and a stator, mainly made out of rubber. This can be visualized as a central core of diameter *x* with, typically, a curved spiral wound around of thickness half

x, though in reality it is manufactured in a single lobe. This shaft fits inside a heavy-duty rubber sleeve or stator, of wall thickness also typically *x*. As the shaft rotates inside the stator, the rotor gradually forces fluid up the rubber cavity. Such pumps can develop very high pressure at low volumes at a rate of 90 PSI per stage on water for standard configurations.

Roots-type pump

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A Roots lobe pump

Main article: Roots-type supercharger

Named after the Roots brothers who invented it, this lobe pump displaces the fluid trapped between two long helical rotors, each fitted into the other when perpendicular at 90°, rotating inside a triangular shaped sealing line configuration, both at the point of suction and at the point of discharge. This design produces a continuous flow with equal volume and no vortex. It can work at low pulsation rates, and offers gentle performance that some applications require.

Applications include:

- High capacity industrial air compressors.
- Roots superchargers on internal combustion engines.
- A brand of civil defense siren, the Federal Signal Corporation's Thunderbolt.

Peristaltic pump

[edit]





Main article: Peristaltic pump

A *peristaltic pump* is a type of positive-displacement pump. It contains fluid within a flexible tube fitted inside a circular pump casing (though linear peristaltic pumps have been made). A number of *rollers*, *shoes*, or *wipers* attached to a rotor compress the flexible tube. As the rotor turns, the part of the tube under compression closes (or *occludes*), forcing the fluid through the tube. Additionally, when the tube opens to its natural state after the passing of the cam it draws (*restitution*) fluid into the pump. This process is called *peristalsis* and is used in many biological systems such as the gastrointestinal tract.

Plunger pumps

[edit] Main article: Plunger pump

Plunger pumps are reciprocating positive-displacement pumps.

These consist of a cylinder with a reciprocating plunger. The suction and discharge valves are mounted in the head of the cylinder. In the suction stroke, the plunger retracts and the suction valves open causing suction of fluid into the cylinder. In the forward stroke, the plunger pushes the liquid out of the discharge valve. Efficiency and common problems: With only one cylinder in plunger pumps, the fluid flow varies between maximum flow when the plunger moves through the middle positions, and zero flow when the plunger is at the end positions. A lot of energy is wasted when the

fluid is accelerated in the piping system. Vibration and *water hammer* may be a serious problem. In general, the problems are compensated for by using two or more cylinders not working in phase with each other. Centrifugal pumps are also susceptible to water hammer. Surge analysis, a specialized study, helps evaluate this risk in such systems.

Triplex-style plunger pump

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Triplex plunger pumps use three plungers, which reduces the pulsation relative to single reciprocating plunger pumps. Adding a pulsation dampener on the pump outlet can further smooth the *pump ripple*, or ripple graph of a pump transducer. The dynamic relationship of the high-pressure fluid and plunger generally requires high-quality plunger seals. Plunger pumps with a larger number of plungers have the benefit of increased flow, or smoother flow without a pulsation damper. The increase in moving parts and crankshaft load is one drawback.

Car washes often use these triplex-style plunger pumps (perhaps without pulsation dampers). In 1968, William Bruggeman reduced the size of the triplex pump and increased the lifespan so that car washes could use equipment with smaller footprints. Durable high-pressure seals, low-pressure seals and oil seals, hardened crankshafts, hardened connecting rods, thick ceramic plungers and heavier duty ball and roller bearings improve reliability in triplex pumps. Triplex pumps now are in a myriad of markets across the world.

Triplex pumps with shorter lifetimes are commonplace to the home user. A person who uses a home pressure washer for 10 hours a year may be satisfied with a pump that lasts 100 hours between rebuilds. Industrial-grade or continuous duty triplex pumps on the other end of the quality spectrum may run for as much as 2,080 hours a year.^[17]

The oil and gas drilling industry uses massive semi-trailer-transported triplex pumps called mud pumps to pump drilling mud, which cools the drill bit and carries the cuttings back to the surface.^[18] Drillers use triplex or even quintuplex pumps to inject water and solvents deep into shale in the extraction process called *fracking*.^[19]

Diaphragm pump

[edit]

Typically run on electricity compressed air, diaphragm pumps are relatively inexpensive and can perform a wide variety of duties, from pumping air into an aquarium, to liquids through a filter press. Double-diaphragm pumps can handle viscous fluids and abrasive materials with a gentle pumping process ideal for transporting shear-sensitive media.[20]

Rope pump

[edit]



Rope pump schematic

Main article: Rope pump

Devised in China as chain pumps over 1000 years ago, these pumps can be made from very simple materials: A rope, a wheel and a pipe are sufficient to make a simple rope pump. Rope pump efficiency has been studied by grassroots organizations and the techniques for making and running them have been continuously improved.^[21]

Impulse pump

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Impulse pumps use pressure created by gas (usually air). In some impulse pumps the gas trapped in the liquid (usually water), is released and accumulated somewhere in the pump, creating a pressure that can push part of the liquid upwards.

Conventional impulse pumps include:

- Hydraulic ram pumps kinetic energy of a low-head water supply is stored temporarily in an air-bubble hydraulic accumulator, then used to drive water to a higher head.
- *Pulser pumps* run with natural resources, by kinetic energy only.
- Airlift pumps run on air inserted into pipe, which pushes the water up when bubbles move upward

Instead of a gas accumulation and releasing cycle, the pressure can be created by burning of hydrocarbons. Such combustion driven pumps directly transmit the impulse from a combustion event through the actuation membrane to the pump fluid. In order to allow this direct transmission, the pump needs to be almost entirely made of an elastomer (e.g. silicone rubber). Hence, the combustion causes the membrane to expand and thereby pumps the fluid out of the adjacent pumping chamber. The first combustion-driven soft pump was developed by ETH Zurich.^[22]

Hydraulic ram pump

[edit]

A hydraulic ram is a water pump powered by hydropower.[23]

It takes in water at relatively low pressure and high flow-rate and outputs water at a higher hydraulic-head and lower flow-rate. The device uses the water hammer effect to develop pressure that lifts a portion of the input water that powers the pump to a point higher than where the water started.

The hydraulic ram is sometimes used in remote areas, where there is both a source of low-head hydropower, and a need for pumping water to a destination higher in elevation than the source. In this situation, the ram is often useful, since it requires no outside source of power other than the kinetic energy of flowing water.

Velocity pumps

[edit]



A centrifugal pump uses an impeller with backward-swept arms

Rotodynamic pumps (or dynamic pumps) are a type of velocity pump in which kinetic energy is added to the fluid by increasing the flow velocity. This increase in energy is converted to a gain in potential energy (pressure) when the velocity is reduced prior to or as the flow exits the pump into the discharge pipe. This conversion of kinetic energy to pressure is explained by the *First law of thermodynamics*, or more specifically by *Bernoulli's principle*.

Dynamic pumps can be further subdivided according to the means in which the velocity gain is achieved.[²⁴]

These types of pumps have a number of characteristics:

- 1. Continuous energy
- 2. Conversion of added energy to increase in kinetic energy (increase in velocity)
- 3. Conversion of increased velocity (kinetic energy) to an increase in pressure head

A practical difference between dynamic and positive-displacement pumps is how they operate under closed valve conditions. Positive-displacement pumps physically displace fluid, so closing a valve downstream of a positive-displacement pump produces a continual pressure build up that can cause mechanical failure of pipeline or pump. Dynamic pumps differ in that they can be safely operated under closed valve conditions (for short periods of time).

Radial-flow pump

[edit]

Such a pump is also referred to as a *centrifugal pump*. The fluid enters along the axis or center, is accelerated by the impeller and exits at right angles to the shaft (radially); an example is the centrifugal fan, which is commonly used to implement a vacuum cleaner. Another type of radial-flow pump is a vortex pump. The liquid in them moves in tangential direction around the working wheel. The conversion from the mechanical energy of motor into the potential energy of flow comes by means of multiple whirls, which are excited by the impeller in the working channel of the pump. Generally, a radial-flow pump operates at higher pressures and lower flow rates than an axial- or a mixed-flow pump.

Axial-flow pump

[edit] Main article: Axial-flow pump

These are also referred to as *all-fluid pumps*. The fluid is pushed outward or inward to move fluid axially. They operate at much lower pressures and higher flow rates than radial-flow (centrifugal) pumps. Axial-flow pumps cannot be run up to speed without special precaution. If at a low flow rate, the total head rise and high torque associated with this pipe would mean that the starting torque would have to become a function of acceleration for the whole mass of liquid in the pipe system.²⁵]

Mixed-flow pumps function as a compromise between radial and axial-flow pumps. The fluid experiences both radial acceleration and lift and exits the impeller somewhere between 0 and 90 degrees from the axial direction. As a consequence mixed-flow pumps operate at higher pressures than axial-flow pumps while delivering higher discharges than radial-flow pumps. The exit angle of the flow dictates the pressure head-discharge characteristic in relation to radial and mixed-flow.

Regenerative turbine pump

[edit]

Image not found or type unknown Regenerative turbine pump animation



Close-up of a Regenerative Turbine Pump Impeller

Also known as **drag**, **friction**, **liquid-ring pump**, **peripheral**, **traction**, **turbulence**, or **vortex** pumps, regenerative turbine pumps are a class of rotodynamic pump that operates at high head pressures, typically 4–20 bars (400–2,000 kPa; 58–290 psi).[²⁶]

The pump has an impeller with a number of vanes or paddles which spins in a cavity. The suction port and pressure ports are located at the perimeter of the cavity and are isolated by a barrier called a **stripper**, which allows only the **tip channel** (fluid between the blades) to recirculate, and forces any fluid in the **side channel** (fluid in the cavity outside of the blades) through the pressure port. In a regenerative turbine pump, as fluid spirals repeatedly from a vane into the side channel and back to the next vane, kinetic energy is imparted to the periphery, [²⁶] thus pressure builds with each spiral, in a manner similar to a regenerative blower.[²⁷][²⁸][²⁹]

As regenerative turbine pumps cannot become vapor locked, they are commonly applied to volatile, hot, or cryogenic fluid transport. However, as tolerances are typically tight, they are vulnerable to solids or particles causing jamming or rapid wear. Efficiency is typically low, and pressure and power consumption typically decrease with flow. Additionally, pumping direction can be reversed by reversing direction of spin.[²⁹][27][30]

Side-channel pump

[edit]

A **side-channel** pump has a suction disk, an impeller, and a discharge disk.³¹]

Eductor-jet pump

[edit] Main article: Eductor-jet pump

This uses a jet, often of steam, to create a low pressure. This low pressure sucks in fluid and propels it into a higher-pressure region.

Gravity pumps

[edit]

Gravity pumps include the *syphon* and *Heron's fountain*. The *hydraulic ram* is also sometimes called a gravity pump. In a gravity pump the fluid is lifted by gravitational force.

Steam pump

[edit]

Steam pumps have been for a long time mainly of historical interest. They include any type of pump powered by a steam engine and also pistonless pumps such as Thomas Savery's or the Pulsometer steam pump.

Recently there has been a resurgence of interest in low-power solar steam pumps for use in smallholder irrigation in developing countries. Previously small steam engines have not been viable because of escalating inefficiencies as vapour engines decrease in size. However the use of modern engineering materials coupled with alternative engine configurations has meant that these types of system are now a cost-effective opportunity.

Valveless pumps

[edit]

Valveless pumping assists in fluid transport in various biomedical and engineering systems. In a valveless pumping system, no valves (or physical occlusions) are present to regulate the flow direction. The fluid pumping efficiency of a valveless system, however, is not necessarily lower than that having valves. In fact, many fluid-dynamical systems in nature and engineering more or less rely upon valveless pumping to transport the working fluids therein. For instance, blood circulation in the cardiovascular system is maintained to some extent even when the heart's valves fail. Meanwhile, the embryonic vertebrate heart begins pumping blood long before the development of discernible chambers and valves. Similar to blood circulation in one direction, bird respiratory systems pump air in one direction in rigid lungs, but without any physiological valve. In microfluidics, valveless impedance pumps have been fabricated, and are expected to be particularly suitable for handling sensitive biofluids. Ink jet printers operating on the piezoelectric transducer principle also use valveless pumping. The pump chamber is emptied through the printing jet due to reduced flow impedance in that direction and refilled by capillary action.

Pump repairs

[edit]



Derelict windmill connected to water pump with water storage tank in the foreground

Examining pump repair records and mean time between failures (MTBF) is of great importance to responsible and conscientious pump users. In view of that fact, the preface to the 2006 Pump User's Handbook alludes to "pump failure" statistics. For the sake of convenience, these failure statistics often are translated into MTBF (in this case, installed life before failure).[³²]

In early 2005, Gordon Buck, John Crane Inc.'s chief engineer for field operations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, examined the repair records for a number of refinery and chemical plants to obtain meaningful reliability data for centrifugal pumps. A total of 15 operating plants having nearly 15,000 pumps were included in the survey. The smallest of these plants had about 100 pumps; several plants had over 2000. All facilities were located in the United States. In addition, considered as "new", others as "renewed" and still others as "established". Many of these plants—but not all—had an alliance arrangement with John Crane. In some cases, the alliance contract included having a John Crane Inc. technician or engineer on-site to coordinate various aspects of the program.

Not all plants are refineries, however, and different results occur elsewhere. In chemical plants, pumps have historically been "throw-away" items as chemical attack limits life. Things have improved in recent years, but the somewhat restricted space available in "old" DIN and ASME-standardized stuffing boxes places limits on the type of seal that fits. Unless the pump user upgrades the seal chamber, the pump only accommodates more compact and simple versions. Without this upgrading, lifetimes in chemical installations are generally around 50 to 60 percent of the refinery values.

Unscheduled maintenance is often one of the most significant costs of ownership, and failures of mechanical seals and bearings are among the major causes. Keep in mind the potential value of selecting pumps that cost more initially, but last much longer between repairs. The MTBF of a better pump may be one to four years longer than that of its non-upgraded counterpart. Consider that published average values of avoided pump failures range from US\$2600 to US\$12,000. This does not include lost opportunity costs. One pump fire occurs per 1000 failures. Having fewer pump failures means having fewer destructive pump fires.

As has been noted, a typical pump failure, based on actual year 2002 reports, costs US\$5,000 on average. This includes costs for material, parts, labor and overhead. Extending a pump's MTBF from 12 to 18 months would save US\$1,667 per year — which might be greater than the cost to upgrade the centrifugal pump's reliability.[32][¹] [33]

Applications

[edit]



Metering pump for gasoline and additives

Pumps are used throughout society for a variety of purposes. Early applications includes the use of the windmill or watermill to pump water. Today, the pump is used for irrigation, water supply, gasoline supply, air conditioning systems, refrigeration (usually called a compressor), chemical movement, sewage movement, flood control, marine services, etc.

Because of the wide variety of applications, pumps have a plethora of shapes and sizes: from very large to very small, from handling gas to handling liquid, from high pressure to low pressure, and from high volume to low volume.

Priming a pump

[edit]

Typically, a liquid pump cannot simply draw air. The feed line of the pump and the internal body surrounding the pumping mechanism must first be filled with the liquid that requires pumping: An operator must introduce liquid into the system to initiate the pumping, known as *priming* the pump. Loss of prime is usually due to ingestion of air into the pump, or evaporation of the working fluid if the pump is used infrequently. Clearances and displacement ratios in pumps for liquids are insufficient for pumping compressible gas, so air or other gasses in the pump can not be evacuated by the pump's action alone. This is the case with most velocity (rotodynamic) pumps — for example, centrifugal pumps. For such pumps, the position of the pump and intake tubing should be lower than the suction point so it is primed by gravity; otherwise the pump should be manually filled with liquid or a secondary pump should be used until all air is removed from the suction line and the pump casing. Liquid ring pumps have a dedicated intake for the priming liquid separate from the intake of the fluid being pumped, as the fluid being pumped may be a gas or mix of gas, liquid, and solids. For these pumps the priming liquid intake must be supplied continuously (either by gravity or pressure), however the intake for the fluid being pumped is capable of drawing a vacuum equivalent to the boiling point of the priming liquid.³⁴]

Positive–displacement pumps, however, tend to have sufficiently tight sealing between the moving parts and the casing or housing of the pump that they can be described as *self-priming*. Such pumps can also serve as *priming pumps*, so-called when they are used to fulfill that need for other pumps in lieu of action taken by a human operator.

Pumps as public water supplies

[edit] Main article: Hand pump



Arabic depiction of a piston pump, by Al-Jazari, c. 1206[³⁵][³⁶]



First European depiction of a piston pump, by Taccola, c. 1450[³⁷]



Irrigation is underway by pump-enabled extraction directly from the Gumti, seen in the background, in Comilla, Bangladesh.

One sort of pump once common worldwide was a hand-powered water pump, or 'pitcher pump'. It was commonly installed over community water wells in the days before piped water supplies.

In parts of the British Isles, it was often called *the parish pump*. Though such community pumps are no longer common, people still used the expression *parish pump* to describe a place or forum where matters of local interest are discussed.^[38]

Because water from pitcher pumps is drawn directly from the soil, it is more prone to contamination. If such water is not filtered and purified, consumption of it might lead to gastrointestinal or other water-borne diseases. A notorious case is the 1854 Broad Street cholera outbreak. At the time it was not known how cholera was transmitted, but physician John Snow suspected contaminated water and had the handle of the public pump he suspected removed; the outbreak then subsided.

Modern hand-operated community pumps are considered the most sustainable lowcost option for safe water supply in resource-poor settings, often in rural areas in developing countries. A hand pump opens access to deeper groundwater that is often not polluted and also improves the safety of a well by protecting the water source from contaminated buckets. Pumps such as the Afridev pump are designed to be cheap to build and install, and easy to maintain with simple parts. However, scarcity of spare parts for these type of pumps in some regions of Africa has diminished their utility for these areas.

Sealing multiphase pumping applications

[edit]

Multiphase pumping applications, also referred to as tri-phase, have grown due to increased oil drilling activity. In addition, the economics of multiphase production is

attractive to upstream operations as it leads to simpler, smaller in-field installations, reduced equipment costs and improved production rates. In essence, the multiphase pump can accommodate all fluid stream properties with one piece of equipment, which has a smaller footprint. Often, two smaller multiphase pumps are installed in series rather than having just one massive pump.

Types and features of multiphase pumps

[edit]

Helico-axial (centrifugal)

[edit]

A rotodynamic pump with one single shaft that requires two mechanical seals, this pump uses an open-type axial impeller. It is often called a *Poseidon pump*, and can be described as a cross between an axial compressor and a centrifugal pump.

Twin-screw (positive-displacement)

[edit]

The twin-screw pump is constructed of two inter-meshing screws that move the pumped fluid. Twin screw pumps are often used when pumping conditions contain high gas volume fractions and fluctuating inlet conditions. Four mechanical seals are required to seal the two shafts.

Progressive cavity (positive-displacement)

[edit]

Progressive Cavity Pumps are well suited to pump sludge, slurries, viscous, and shear sensitive fluids. [³⁹] Progressive cavity pumps are single-screw types use in surface and downhole oil production.[⁴⁰] They serve a vast arrange of industries and applications ranging from Wastewater Treatment,[⁴¹] Pulp and Paper, oil and gas, mining, and oil and gas.

Electric submersible (centrifugal)

[edit]

These pumps are basically multistage centrifugal pumps and are widely used in oil well applications as a method for artificial lift. These pumps are usually specified when the pumped fluid is mainly liquid.

Buffer tank A buffer tank is often installed upstream of the pump suction nozzle in case of a slug flow. The buffer tank breaks the energy of the liquid slug, smooths any fluctuations in the incoming flow and acts as a sand trap.

As the name indicates, multiphase pumps and their mechanical seals can encounter a large variation in service conditions such as changing process fluid composition, temperature variations, high and low operating pressures and exposure to abrasive/erosive media. The challenge is selecting the appropriate mechanical seal arrangement and support system to ensure maximized seal life and its overall effectiveness.[⁴²][⁴³][⁴⁴]

Specifications

[edit]

Pumps are commonly rated by horsepower, volumetric flow rate, outlet pressure in metres (or feet) of head, inlet suction in suction feet (or metres) of head. The head can be simplified as the number of feet or metres the pump can raise or lower a column of water at atmospheric pressure.

From an initial design point of view, engineers often use a quantity termed the specific speed to identify the most suitable pump type for a particular combination of flow rate and head. Net Positive Suction Head (NPSH) is crucial for pump performance. It has two key aspects: 1) NPSHr (Required): The Head required for the pump to operate without cavitation issues. 2) NPSHa (Available): The actual pressure provided by the system (e.g., from an overhead tank). For optimal pump operation, NPSHa must always exceed NPSHr. This ensures the pump has enough pressure to prevent cavitation, a damaging condition.

Pumping power

[edit] Main article: Bernoulli's equation The power imparted into a fluid increases the energy of the fluid per unit volume. Thus the power relationship is between the conversion of the mechanical energy of the pump mechanism and the fluid elements within the pump. In general, this is governed by a series of simultaneous differential equations, known as the Navier–Stokes equations. However a more simple equation relating only the different energies in the fluid, known as Bernoulli's equation can be used. Hence the power, P, required by the pump:

\displaystyle P=\frac \Delta pQ\eta

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where ?p is the change in total pressure between the inlet and outlet (in Pa), and Q, the volume flow-rate of the fluid is given in m³/s. The total pressure may have gravitational, static pressure and kinetic energy components; i.e. energy is distributed between change in the fluid's gravitational potential energy (going up or down hill), change in velocity, or change in static pressure. ? is the pump efficiency, and may be given by the manufacturer's information, such as in the form of a pump curve, and is typically derived from either fluid dynamics simulation (i.e. solutions to the Navier–Stokes for the particular pump geometry), or by testing. The efficiency of the pump depends upon the pump's configuration and operating conditions (such as rotational speed, fluid density and viscosity etc.)

\displaystyle \Delta p=\rho (v_2^2-v_1^2) \over 2+\rho \Delta zg+\Delta p_\mathrm static

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For a typical "pumping" configuration, the work is imparted on the fluid, and is thus positive. For the fluid imparting the work on the pump (i.e. a turbine), the work is negative. Power required to drive the pump is determined by dividing the output power by the pump efficiency. Furthermore, this definition encompasses pumps with no moving parts, such as a siphon.

Efficiency

[edit]

Pump efficiency is defined as the ratio of the power imparted on the fluid by the pump in relation to the power supplied to drive the pump. Its value is not fixed for a given pump, efficiency is a function of the discharge and therefore also operating head. For centrifugal pumps, the efficiency tends to increase with flow rate up to a point midway through the operating range (peak efficiency or Best Efficiency Point (BEP)) and then declines as flow rates rise further. Pump performance data such as this is usually supplied by the manufacturer before pump selection. Pump efficiencies tend to decline over time due to wear (e.g. increasing clearances as impellers reduce in size). When a system includes a centrifugal pump, an important design issue is matching the *head loss-flow characteristic* with the pump so that it operates at or close to the point of its maximum efficiency.

Pump efficiency is an important aspect and pumps should be regularly tested. Thermodynamic pump testing is one method.

Minimum flow protection

[edit]

Most large pumps have a minimum flow requirement below which the pump may be damaged by overheating, impeller wear, vibration, seal failure, drive shaft damage or poor performance.^[45] A minimum flow protection system ensures that the pump is not operated below the minimum flow rate. The system protects the pump even if it is shut-in or dead-headed, that is, if the discharge line is completely closed.^[46]

The simplest minimum flow system is a pipe running from the pump discharge line back to the suction line. This line is fitted with an orifice plate sized to allow the pump minimum flow to pass.^[47] The arrangement ensures that the minimum flow is maintained, although it is wasteful as it recycles fluid even when the flow through the pump exceeds the minimum flow.



Part of a process flow diagram of pump minimum flow protection arrangement

A more sophisticated, but more costly, system (see diagram) comprises a flow measuring device (FE) in the pump discharge which provides a signal into a flow controller (FIC) which actuates a flow control valve (FCV) in the recycle line. If the measured flow exceeds the minimum flow then the FCV is closed. If the measured flow falls below the minimum flow the FCV opens to maintain the minimum flowrate.^{[45}]

As the fluids are recycled the kinetic energy of the pump increases the temperature of the fluid. For many pumps this added heat energy is dissipated through the pipework. However, for large industrial pumps, such as oil pipeline pumps, a recycle cooler is provided in the recycle line to cool the fluids to the normal suction temperature.[⁴⁸] Alternatively the recycled fluids may be returned to upstream of the export cooler in an

oil refinery, oil terminal, or offshore installation.

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About Shallow foundation

Shallow foundation construction example

A **shallow foundation** is a type of building **foundation** that transfers **structural load** to the Earth very near to the surface, rather than to a subsurface layer or a range of depths, as does a **deep foundation**. Customarily, a shallow foundation is considered as such when the width of the entire foundation is greater than its depth.[1] In comparison to deep foundations, shallow foundations are less technical, thus making them more economical and the most widely used for relatively light structures.

Types

[edit]

Footings are always wider than the members that they support. Structural loads from a **column** or wall are usually greater than 1,000 kPa, while the soil's **bearing capacity** is commonly less than that (typically less than 400 kPa). By possessing a larger bearing area, the foundation distributes the pressure to the soil, decreasing the bearing pressure to within allowable values.[2] A structure is not limited to one footing. Multiple types of footings may be used in a construction project.

Wall footing

[edit]

Also called *strip footing*, a **wall footing** is a continuous strip that supports structural and non-structural load-bearing walls. Found directly under the wall, Its width is commonly 2-3 times wider than the wall above it.[3]



Detail Section of a strip footing and its wall.

Isolated footing

[edit]

Also called *single-column footing*, an isolated footing is a square, rectangular, or circular slab that supports the structural members individually. Generally, each column is set on an individual footing to transmit and distribute the load of the structure to the soil underneath. Sometimes, an isolated footing can be sloped or stepped at the base to spread greater loads. This type of footing is used when the structural load is relatively low, columns are widely spaced, and the soil's bearing capacity is adequate at a shallow depth.

Combined footing

[edit]

When more than one column shares the same footing, it is called a *combined footing*. A combined footing is typically utilized when the spacing of the columns is too restricted such that if isolated footing were used, they would overlap one another. Also, when property lines make isolated footings eccentrically loaded, combined footings are preferred.

When the load among the columns is equal, the combined footing may be rectangular. Conversely, when the load among the columns is unequal, the combined footing should be **trapezoidal**.

Strap footing

[edit]

A **strap footing** connects individual columns with the use of a strap beam. The general purpose of a strap footing is alike to those of a combined footing, where the spacing is possibly limited and/or the columns are adjacent to the property lines.



Mat foundation with its concrete undergoing curing.

Mat foundation

[edit]

Also called *raft* foundation, a mat foundation is a single continuous slab that covers the entirety of the base of a building. Mat foundations support all the loads of the structure and transmit them to the ground evenly. Soil conditions may prevent other footings from being used. Since this type of foundation distributes the load coming from the building uniformly over a considerably large area, it is favored when individual footings are unfeasible due to the low bearing capacity of the soil.



Diagrams of the types of shallow foundations.

Slab-on-grade foundation

[edit]

"Floating foundation" redirects here. For Floating raft system, see Floating raft system.



Pouring a slab-on-grade foundation

Slab-on-grade or *floating slab* foundations are a **structural engineering** practice whereby the **reinforced concrete** slab that is to serve as the foundation for the structure is formed from **formwork** set into the ground. The concrete is then poured into the formwork, leaving no space between the ground and the structure. This type of construction is most often seen in warmer climates, where ground freezing and thawing is less of a concern and where there is no need for heat ducting underneath the floor. Frost Protected Shallow Foundations (or FPSF) which are used in areas of potential frost heave, are a form of slab-on-grade foundation.[4]

Remodeling or extending such a structure may be more difficult. Over the long term, ground settling (or **subsidence**) may be a problem, as a slab foundation cannot be

readily jacked up to compensate; proper soil compaction prior to pour can minimize this. The slab can be decoupled from ground temperatures by insulation, with the concrete poured directly over insulation (for example, **extruded polystyrene** foam panels), or heating provisions (such as **hydronic heating**) can be built into the slab.

Slab-on-grade foundations should not be used in areas with **expansive clay** soil. While elevated structural slabs actually perform better on expansive clays, it is generally accepted by the engineering community that slab-on-grade foundations offer the greatest cost-to-performance ratio for **tract homes**. Elevated structural slabs are generally only found on custom homes or homes with basements.

Copper piping, commonly used to carry **natural gas** and **water**, reacts with concrete over a long period, slowly degrading until the pipe fails. This can lead to what is commonly referred to as slab leaks. These occur when pipes begin to leak from within the slab. Signs of a slab leak range from unexplained dampened carpet spots, to drops in water pressure and wet discoloration on exterior foundation walls.[5] Copper pipes must be *lagged* (that is, *insulated*) or run through a **conduit** or **plumbed** into the building above the slab. Electrical conduits through the slab must be water-tight, as they extend below ground level and can potentially expose wiring to **groundwater**.

See also

[edit]

- Argillipedoturbation
- Building construction
- Construction engineering
- Fiber reinforced concrete
- Grade beam
- Precast concrete
- Prestressed concrete
- Rebar
- Steel fixer
- Tie rod

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[edit]

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- 5. *** "Slab Leak Repair McKinney, Frisco, and Allen Tx Hackler Plumbing"**. Hacklerplumbingmckinney.com. 2013-11-08. Retrieved 2018-08-20.

External links

[edit]

Wikimedia Commons has media related to **Shallow foundations**.

- Raft or Mat Foundations
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Geotechnical engineering

Offshore geotechnical engineering

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Investigation and instrumentation

• Clay
∘ Silt
∘ Sand
• Gravel
• Peat
• Loam
∘ Loess
• Hvdraulic conductivity
 Water content
 Void ratio
 Bulk density
• Thixotropy
• Reynolds' dilatancy
 Angle of repose
• Friction angle
 Cohesion
• Porosity
 Permeability
• Specific storage
 Shear strength
• Sensitivity

Soil

Structures (Interaction)

Earthworks

Natural features

- Topography
- Vegetation
- Terrain
- Topsoil
- Water table
- Bedrock
- Subgrade
- Subsoil
- Shoring structures
 - Retaining walls
 - Gabion
 - Ground freezing
 - Mechanically stabilized earth
 - Pressure grouting
 - Slurry wall
 - Soil nailing
 - Tieback
- Land development
- Landfill
- Excavation
- Trench
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 - Cellular confinement
- Infiltration
- Shallow
- Deep

Foundations

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