

Blockbuster/Drain Corp Joint Venture Projects.

Very Shallow and very long – two recent BB&DC Fibre/pitch sewer pipe replacements.

The first project was at a townhouse complex in Bedfordview. Although most of the sewer pipe is in poor condition it was decided to replace a relatively easy 20m section between blocks running under paving. This would give us an indication of what we are up against for the rest of the project. We considered it to be a reasonably quick and easy job. Only one pit (for the winch) had to be dug in grass and another smaller pit for a toilet junction dug in the paving. The pipe was led in through a manhole, so damage to the surroundings would be minimal.



Winch used as a bulldozer!

The winch pit was unusually shallow because the sewer line was very very close to the surface. Although it was quick to dig, it soon proved to be a major problem. The pipe had only just entered the ground when it encountered concrete and brickwork that constrained the pig. This made the pull tonnage go up dramatically. The pig Stopped and the winch started to bulldoze its way out of the pit. No amount of shoring could stop it from pulling itself out! After some deliberation it was decided that the only way to keep it in one place was to secure it from behind with cable. Problem was – what to tie the cable to?



Friendly helper!

A conveniently placed palm tree was the obvious answer but there was some concern that we may pull the tree out of the ground. Eventually we wrapped our back cable around the base of the palm tree at ground level. This worked reasonably well and the rest of the pull went without incident. The palm tree was unscathed.



Pig in transit – flashing past at .7m/min

Unfortunately the shallow pipes did delay us somewhat and the job took a bit longer to do. Started at 10am and we closed up and left at 4pm. “Too shallow” has now been added to the list of possible snags,

80m of pipe in Pretoria.

A client had experienced a general failure of his fibre pitch sewer system in Pretoria. Camera inspections revealed that the pipe was falling apart everywhere. The problem was that his property was located behind, on a pan handle and the sewer ran the entire length of his very long driveway. This added to the run under his garage and around the back of his house resulted in a total length of about 80m.



Very LONG driveway!

Any excavation in his driveway effectively put the house (and his business) out of action for the duration of the work. This called for a speedy solution to the problem. BB&DC elected to use a number of suitably placed pits and pull in the new system in 7 stages. The pits were prepared a day before we got there. When we arrived we were able to complete the pipe down the driveway, re-connect and fill the pits in less than 8 hours. **This is a new record for us – 50m of new sewer line in a day.**



Last pit.

The following day we completed a number of smaller pulls as well as an 18m run under the garage. There was also the final short run of about 6m around the back *under* the house. The project was completed at 3pm of day 2. A total of 80m of new HDPE pipe in the ground and working in less than two days!



Two direction changes.

The client thus only suffered the inconvenience of having his property dug up for less than three days – although they are small, the pits do obstruct vehicles. The pipe runs at an average depth of over a metre so a manual replacement would have taken a week or more to complete. An electrical cable running alongside the sewer pipe would have made life very challenging for a JCB operator!



Under the house

Website with more info on Santar used as sewer pipe is at www.blockbusterdrain.co.za

Conclusion.

An extremely cost effective way of replacing sewer pipe that causes the minimum amount of disruption in record time!

Even shallow pipes can be replaced with suitable rigging.

A Scalable solution from 6m to 600m!

The Benefits of using BB&DC's pipe replacement method

1. The most cost effective solution – especially if you need to go under buildings, walls, paving and tarred roads.
2. Minimal disruption to the property – we only dig a series of small pits.
3. Little or no contamination of the area we work in – we don't dig up all the contaminated earth and spread it around as you would have to using conventional methods.
4. We can replace the pipe in heavily contaminated ground that is in fact nothing less than a septic tank. The contaminants stay where they are and will ultimately become inert.
5. The replacement is quick and disruption to sewerage flow minimal.
6. Pipe is replaced. You thus have a brand new pipe that is round and smooth inside with no compromised structural integrity.
7. **Immensely strong HDPE (class 6-10) pipe with a minimum of joins will provide hassle free sewerage flow for the next 100 years!**

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Website at www.blockbusterdrain.co.za