

Franklin Township

10411 Rt. 98, Edinboro, PA 16412
814-734-3521 Fax: 814-734-3361

Private Driveway Access Permit Requirements and Installation Guidelines

Driveways normally used by not more than 25 vehicles per day shall comply with the standards contained in the Pennsylvania Code, Title 67, Transportation, Chapter 441, Access to and Occupancy of Highways by Driveways and Local Roads.

Driveways normally used by more than 25 vehicles per day shall comply with standards appropriate for their anticipated traffic volumes in conformance with accepted engineering standards and practices. The Township engineer will consult.

For Township roads, the Township must inspect each access; establish elevation; approve any proposed work; and inspect and approve any installations. The state permit officer (PennDOT: 814-871-4411) has these responsibilities for state highways (Rt. 98, Crane Rd, Old State Rd, West Stancliff Rd between Rt. 98 and Eureka Rd and Eureka Rd north of West Stancliff Rd.)

You are required by local and state law, to have an approved Highway Occupancy Permit (hereinafter permit) prior to constructing a driveway access connection to a local or state highway.

The Township has consignment pipe available for retail purchase and provides installation for driveways. Our installation price varies with requirements of your driveway. We provide this installation service on state roads as well as our Township roads.

Applications may be obtained at the address listed above. Submitted applications consist of the completed application form and the appropriate fee at a minimum. If we are to install a driveway that accesses a state road, the Township requires a copy of the state Highway Occupancy Permit with any associated engineering information. Other requirements may include a site plan, engineered drawings and additional information as outlined in state and local laws and regulations.

Be sure to mark your proposed driveway location (flagging, stake, etc.) at each end of the pipe. This marking must be accomplished before any initial inspection by the Township.

Construction must begin within 90 days of the effective date of the permit. Construction shall be completed within 120 days of the issuance of the permit. If an extension is necessary, a written request to the Township office must be made or your permit may be nullified.

When the driveway access is complete, the property owner must request a final inspection from the Township. If the access meets all requirements of the permit, then the Township will issue

an occupancy permit. If the access is not installed correctly the owner will be provided specific instruction on the deficiencies so that they may be corrected.

The property owner is responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the driveway access connection. Any future patching of pot holes, additions of gravel, etc, or drainage problems such as replacement of pipes, or washout repairs are the responsibility of the owner and must be taken care of by the owner.

Additional important construction considerations:

1. Driveway drainage pipe must be PennDOT approved plastic (preferred) or corrugated metal. The minimum diameter is 15 inches.
2. Driveways should not be located below the crest of a hill or in blind curves. A clear sight distance must be maintained in both directions. Sight distance is 10 times the speed limit.
3. Driveways shall not be constructed near road intersections. The minimum distance from an intersection is 60 feet.
4. If a driveway leaves the roadway at a steep upward angle, provisions must be made to keep storm water runoff from the driveway from flooding the roadway, causing ice during freezing conditions or erosion. See Figure 1 below.
5. Concrete driveways are not allowed in the right-of-way. For gravel roads, the concrete or asphalt driveway must stop at the right-of-way line. If the Township road is paved with asphalt (not tar and chip) then the driveway's asphalt may be made to connect to the road asphalt using a "mill and notch" technique with edge sealing. For concrete driveways, that part of the driveway in the right of way that extends to the asphalt paved roadway must be asphalt.
6. A driveway is not allowed to be located within 10' of a catch basin or other drainage structure unless the drainage structure is redesigned and included in driveway entrance.
7. All work shall be in accordance with PennDOT Publication 408, Specifications; Publication 35, Approved Construction Materials; and Publication 72, Roadway Construction Standards, unless otherwise noted in the permit.

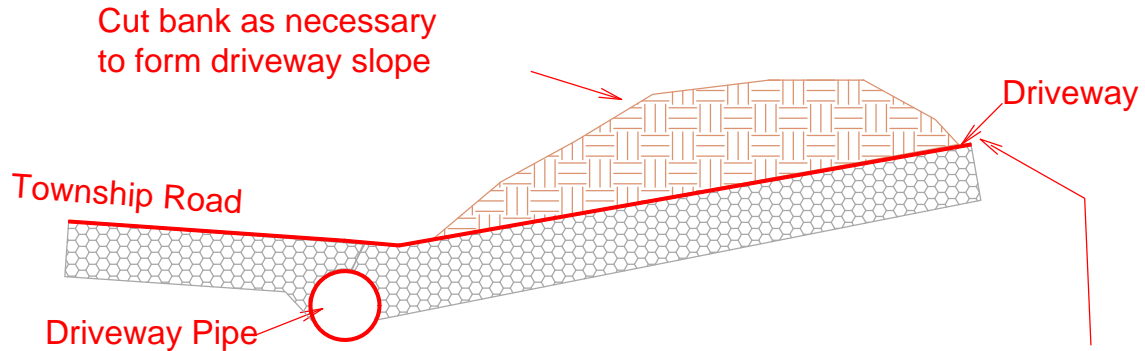
PennDOT's Checklist for Driveway Installations is available at:

<ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/Bureaus/BOMO/MC/282 B1 Scoping Mtg Checklist1.pdf>

Franklin Township DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

Driveways with Uphill Slope From Road

Side View

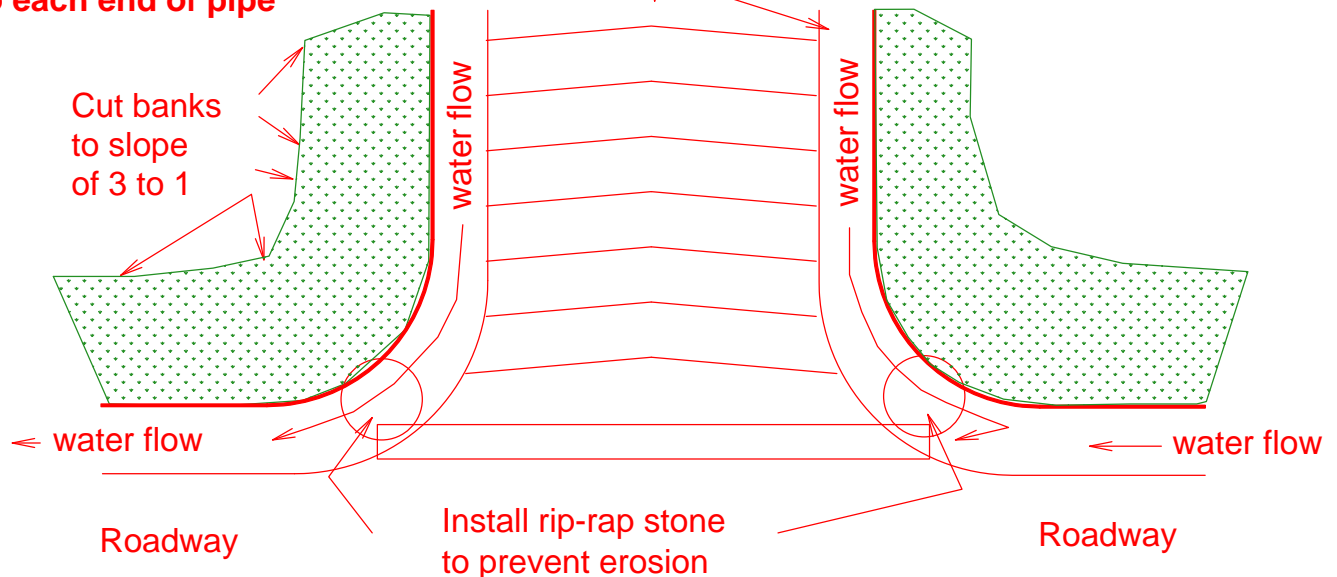


For best driveway use PennDOT Type 4A or 4B geotextile fabric under 8 or more inches of crushed gravel

Make slope no greater than 5 degrees to limit erosion down driveway

Top View

Create ditches on both sides of drive to carry water to each end of pipe



Create high crown in driveway to force water to run into driveway ditch rather than down driveway and on to road

Driveways that run uphill from the road require constant maintenance by the landowner. Failure to keep a high crown in the drive and clean, deep ditches along the drive will result in significant erosion of the driveway gravel during heavy rain storms. More importantly, water will run down the drive in winter and freeze on the road creating a dangerous ice condition. This may result in the landowner being liable for damages from an accident created by the ice condition.