

# GETTING MAXIMUM BENEFIT FROM VISITING A MANUFACTURER'S FACILITY



**PLUMMER**

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## VISITING A MANUFACTURER

Why is visiting a manufacturer's facility beneficial to a young professional?

- See designs come to life
- Learn the fabrication and constructability challenges of a design
- Opportunity to meet with specialists in the industry

## INTRODUCTION



Spiral Welded Steel Pipe

## **VISITING A MANUFACTURER**

### **What to do before facility visit**

- Ways to prepare before travelling to site

### **What to do during facility visit**

- Things to look for and questions to ask

### **What to do after facility visit**

- How to apply what you learned and follow up



Fiberglass Wet Wells



## BEFORE VISITING THE FACILITY



Large Diameter Mandrels



## Ways to prepare – the basics

- Know clothing and safety requirements
- Know the materials used in product fabrication
- Know the basic fabrication methods



**BEFORE VISITING**



## **KNOW WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR**

### **Understand the project specifications**

- Product requirements
- Standardized tests needed
- Material requirements
- Design dimensions

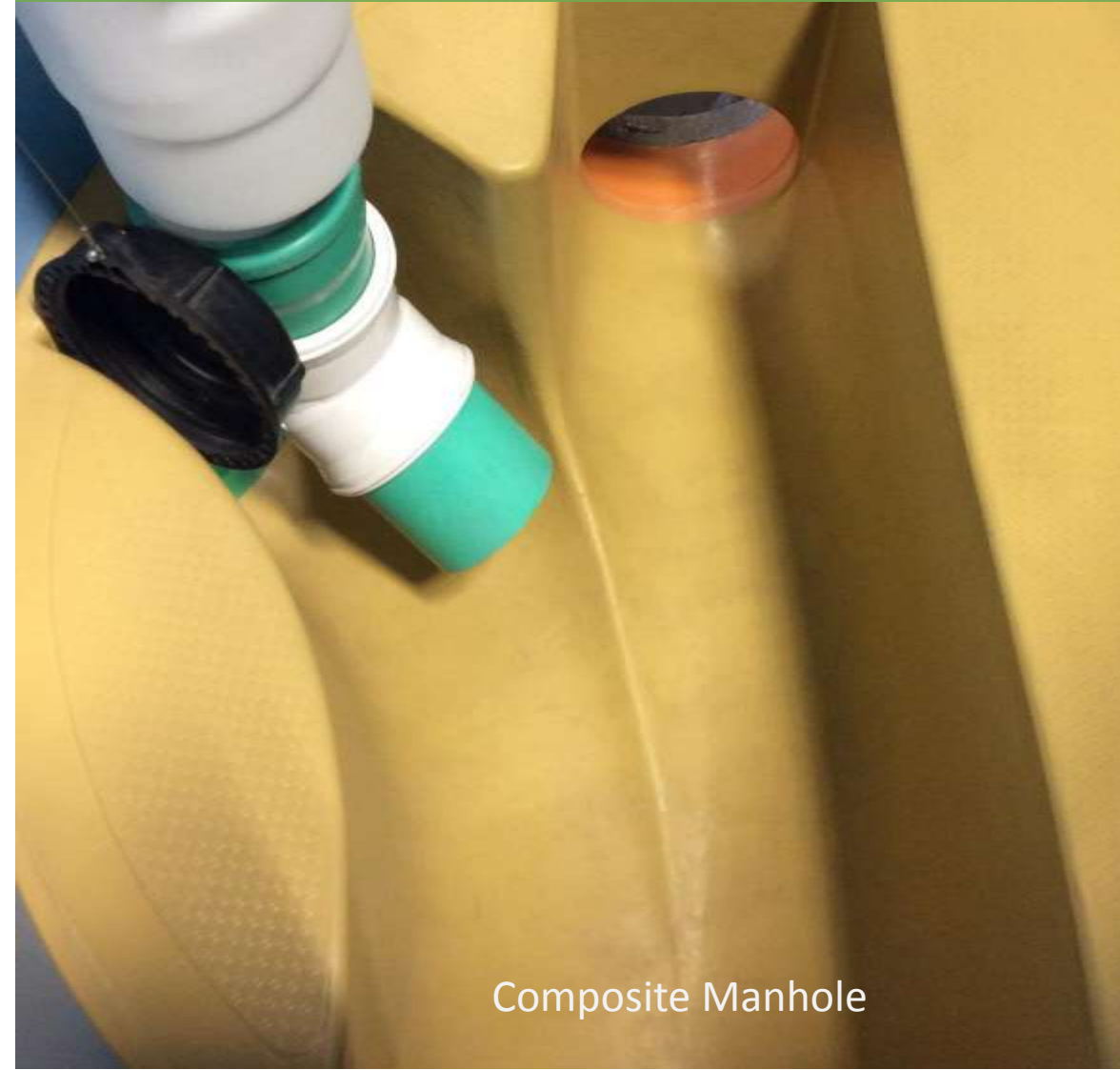


Bar Wrapped Pipe

## Communicate your needs to the manufacturer

- Design issues
- Testing requirements
- Specific project conditions

**BEFORE VISITING**



Composite Manhole



# UCT The Underground Utilities Event



Underground Construction Technology | January 28-30, 2020 | Fort Worth, TX

WHILE AT  
THE FACILITY



Ductile Iron Pipe



## What to look for – the basics

- Follow safety procedures
- Product range at the facility
- Fabrication methods
- Take photos (if approved)
- Ask questions!

## WHILE AT THE FACILITY



Polymer Concrete  
Manholes

## Other things to notice

### Fabrication timelines

- Time to fabricate
- Length of batch runs
- Lead time on products
- Product on-hand availability

**Do all fabrication steps occur at that location?**

**What is the capacity of the facility?**

## WHILE AT THE FACILITY



PVC Pipe



## Product Testing

- Raw material testing
- Product testing
- Testing arrangements
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing

## WHILE AT THE FACILITY



## Manufacturing limitations

- Size constraints
- Constructability issues
- Ask about the strengths and weaknesses of the design

## WHILE AT THE FACILITY



Polymer Concrete  
Manhole



## Products outside of the facility

### Transportation

- Shipping limitations
- Permit requirements

### Product installation

- How are the products installed or assembled?
- Installation concerns?



## WHILE AT THE FACILITY





## HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED



Spiral Welded Steel Pipe



## Meeting to debrief with coworkers

- Did they answer the questions you had?
- Was there something that you missed?
- Discuss pros and cons
- How does this apply to your current project



## APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED





## APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED

### Follow up with manufacturer

- Request additional literature
- Ask unanswered questions
- Thank-you opportunity
  - Maintain relationship with industry specialists



Fiberglass Wet Well



## Document and Distribute Lessons Learned

- Compile notes and summary
- Pictures taken on tour
- Share with your company
  - Good opportunity for YP contribution

## APPLYING WHAT YOU LEARNED



Gasket Installation Demo

## VISITING A MANUFACTURER

### Prep work prior to visit will yield a more beneficial experience

Know specifications and product requirements

### Be observant during tour – know what to look for

Pay attention to the tour guide and ask questions as they arise

### Document what you saw and learned

Take notes and pictures from the tour for your future reference

### Share what you learn!

Sharing the lessons learned with your company allows others to benefit from the manufacturer visit







**Questions?**

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