

# Excavations Infographic



## Trench Safety Tips Can Save a Life

**Trench collapses cause fatalities and injuries.**  
It only takes a second for a trench to collapse. **Take the following precautions to protect workers in trenches.**

The infographic features a central illustration of a trench. A worker is shown at the bottom of the trench, and another worker is standing on the edge. A ladder is leaning against the side of the trench. Various text boxes provide safety tips around the illustration.

- Keep rocks, soil, materials and equipment away from the edge of the trench.
- Check with the competent person before entering a trench:
  - ☐ With standing or accumulating water.
  - ☐ Where there may be a lack of oxygen or hazardous fumes or vapors.
- Never enter a trench that has not been properly inspected. A competent person must inspect the trench and fix problems before work begins.
- Only work in trenches that have cave-in protection. Trenches should be shielded/boxed, shored or sloped. Wear your hard hat.
- A trench doesn't have to be very deep to be dangerous. A cubic yard of dirt equals the weight of a mid-sized car -- it will crush you!
- Make sure there is a safe way to enter and exit the trench, such as a ladder, ramp or steps.

Trenching is an important part of any construction project. It involves digging and removing the dirt, forming a narrow depression into the ground, which is then utilized for a variety of projects. That's why it's important to practice proper trenching practices to improve

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