



# Technical Guidance

## Underground drainage - Pipe cross-overs

### Question

Where drainage pipes cross over one another within unadopted areas, what clearance should be provided between the pipes at the point where they cross?

### Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 5.3-S4 makes reference to general pipe bedding requirements.
- Drainage pipes should be bedded and backfilled with suitable material to provide the pipes with full support and avoid point loads on the pipes.

### Answer

Drainage pipes should not make contact with each other as this can lead to a point load where the pipes touch, which can cause damage to the pipes.

To avoid the risk of point loads drainage pipes should be surrounded in a minimum 100mm pea shingle and kept 100mm apart where they cross each other.

Where pipe gradients cannot be adjusted to provide a 100mm clearance, at the point of cross-over, a minimum 50mm clearance may be accepted.