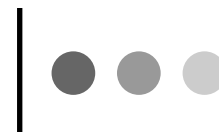


● ● ● | **Pile Driving ... A Long History**

Archeologists have determined that driven piles have been used for thousands of years. Who knows how the ancient Egyptians figured it out; maybe they were trying to push their beach umbrellas into the sand and discovered that it takes more force to install the pole farther. Longer poles (piles) offer greater resistance and support. A beam placed across the top of several piles can support a lot of weight.

The Greeks and Romans utilized driven piles to support bridges, aqueducts and other structures in poor soils, many of which are still in use today. The Roman Circus at Arles, France was built on 30,000 driven piles and in modern archeological excavations found to be in good condition and to have supported their loads for about a thousand years until the structure fell into disuse. Other examples abound throughout Europe. The basic principals for piles are still used today.



Information for the General Public



Pile Driving Contractors Association

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Information about Pile Driving

Why Do We Use Piles?

Commercial buildings, bridges, and skyscrapers are large structures that need a lot of support. Usually, the soil conditions will not support the structure's weight and deep foundations are needed. When you walk across a field, sometimes your foot stays right on the surface. Ten feet further along your feet sink in the mud: different soils, different support.



How Do We Install Piles?

Pound them in! This simple procedure is the most efficient installation method. We call it "driving the pile" or "pile driving". By observing how fast the pile goes down, we can determine how much weight the pile can support.

What About Noise and Vibrations?

Unfortunately, driving the pile produces noise that we hear and vibrations that we can feel.

This noise is no greater than your lawn mower or a motorcycle. The noise will drop off quickly as you move away from the pile hammer. In the vast majority of cases, noise is not a problem.

The vibration that you feel can be measured with seismic instruments. A general rule of thumb is that the ground vibrations are not significant at distances greater than the length of the pile being driven. In other words, if the pile is 50 feet long and your building is more than 50 feet away, significant vibrations are unlikely to occur. If your building is relatively close, or you have a concern, ask the pile driving contractor or engineer to measure the vibrations at your building to assure they are below safe industry guidelines.

The Professional Engineer who designed the pile, has analyzed the soil conditions and has selected a pile type that should not damage surrounding structures.

Advantages of Driven Piles

One of the advantages of pile driving is that it is relatively fast. This reduces the overall nuisance to the neighbors.



Crane and pile driving rig

The Pile Driving Contractor

He is an experienced professional with many years in the business. His goal is to complete the job quickly and efficiently. At the same time, he wants to satisfy all parties involved in the project including the neighbors.

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