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## Root Barrier C3 Installation Guidelines

**Barrier Depth & Location** Tree roots spread radially from the trunk, to distances often greater than the tree's height, tapering and dividing as they spread outwards. Most roots occur in the upper 1m of the ground, although in some tree species these can descend to greater depths.

However, roots often demonstrate a persistent ability to circumvent obstacles, which is difficult to predict, and consideration must also be given to the future stability of the tree.

Therefore, it is important to determine the level of isolation from root damage a structure requires. Furthermore, tree type, soil conditions, proximity to the vulnerable structure and foundation type and depth must be taken into consideration.

Consequently we recommend consulting a qualified arboriculturalist, for professional advice on barrier depth and location.

**Warning Regarding Existing Trees** Care must be taken on sites where established trees exist, so a qualified tree surgeon must be consulted in these circumstances.

Cuttings through roots during barrier installation will normally only temporarily affect the tree's water absorption capacity while new roots establish to compensate.

However, depending on the degree of cutting and tree health and type, there are potential problems of tree stability, disease vulnerability and poor recovery. In addition, some trees are protected from damage by law (For example Tree Preservation Orders).

Care must also be taken where structural damage is being caused by moisture fluctuations in shrinkable clays. On such sites severing tree roots, and using a barrier depth that will completely isolate the structure from re-growth, can result in up-heave as the clay rewets. In these conditions it may be better to consider using barriers to reduce the amount of root growth near the structure rather than stopping it completely.

**Other Considerations** Drainage should be considered on sloping sites to avoid build up of water, and a Structural Engineers involvement may be required if the barrier trench is to be excavated near existing structures.

**General Installation Guidelines** Install the root barrier vertically and taut, against the trench side nearest the tree.

The root barrier must be finished at least 10mm above final surface level to minimise the risk of root over growth. Allowance must also be made for potential drag-down of the barrier during backfilling, especially in deep trenches. Therefore, the installer should take this into consideration, and trim back any surplus.

The raised edge can then be embedded in concrete or butted against a curb for long-term protection.

Care must be taken to ensure trench face and backfill material is free of sharp stones and debris that may puncture the barrier, and backfilling should be carried out to recognised standards to avoid subsidence.

Any laps should be at least 500mm, and sealed on the tree side using root barrier adhesive lapping tape.

**Note** The unpredictable nature of trees, combined with many influential factors in the surrounding environment, makes it difficult to provide precise solutions. Consequently, Hy-Tex are unable to warranty their root barrier products in any form, expressly or implied, regarding their effectiveness or suitability.

Application Categories: Landscaping and Weed Control, Tree Protection

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## Root Barrier C3 Joining Tape Installation Guidelines

### Delivery & Site Handling

**Supply** The joining tape is supplied in cardboard boxes, each box bearing the roll type and manufacturing batch code.

**Storage** Boxes must be stored vertical on end, in dry conditions out of direct sunlight. Storage temperature should be between 5°C and 30°C.

### Installation

**Preparation** Ensure surfaces are smooth, clean and dry.

**Application** Ensure that air temperature is greater than 5°C. Remove the release paper as the sheet is laid, and firmly press the membrane down as it is applied to avoid entrapped air.

When sealing root barrier overlaps apply the joining tape centrally along the lap on the side facing the tree.

**Protection** Care should be taken to avoid damage to the joining tape during backfill operations.

**Note** Whilst information contained herein is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate, no warranty is given or implied in connection with any recommendations or suggestions made by us or our representatives, agents or distributors, as the conditions of use and any labour involved are beyond our control.

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