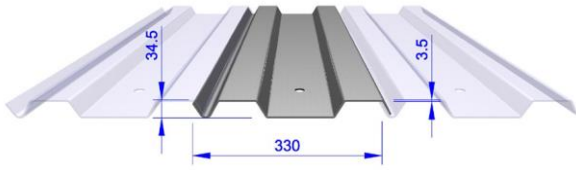


Standard Lap Trench Sheet Installation Information

Specification



Weight of standard lap trench sheet is approximately 11kg/m.

Lengths are available from 2m to 5m in 0.5m increments.

The trench sheets are manufactured from steel grade S235JR.

Safety

Trench sheets are heavy and difficult to handle or pitch on site and these operations should only be carried out by experienced banksmen.

If the project involves regulation with Construction, Design, Management and high-risk, an approved and qualified person/ contractor must carry out the assembly and installation of all trench sheets including any struts needed to provide stability.

It is the customer's responsibility to complete a Site-Specific Risk Assessment based on the information held within this document, including ground condition, safe installation/ removal of trench sheets along with safe access & egress from the excavation. This list is not exhaustible.

A place not usually considered to be a confined space or high risk may become one if there is a change in the conditions inside or a change in the degree of enclosure or confinement, which may occur intermittently.

Appropriate PPE must also be worn based on the specific site risk assessment.

Always ensure that the sheets are not lifted over personnel and that the trailing ropes on Quick Release Shackles cannot snag. Great care should be taken to avoid trapping fingers whilst pitching the sheets. Additional care must be taken in windy conditions when it is recommended that at least two persons are used to pitch the sheets.

For more information please refer to Good Practice Guide from CPA and HSE which will give more information regarding the safe working system.

Installation

Marwood strongly recommends that a driving cap is always used to prevent unnecessary or excessive damage to the tops of the trench sheet when being driven into the ground vertically using the excavator bucket.

Trench sheets should only be installed and removed by qualified and competent persons using excavators specified to suit the size of the trench sheet and the anticipated ground conditions/site constraints.

Lifting points are provided as standard at one end of the sheet.

The sheets should be lifted and aligned in the desired place using a standard or quick release extractor. Marwood recommends the use of 1m drop chain.

Trench sheets must only be removed using Marwood extractors. The use of a quick release shackle for extraction will lead to damage of the spring mechanism.

The sheets overlap on to one another and are designed to achieve a high strength to weight ratio, providing a safe environment for those working in trenches, particularly useful when different services cross. They may provide limited protection against groundwater ingress and should always be used with caution where high water flows are anticipated.

Trench sheets installed are required to be securely supported using timber boards and trench struts or another suitable bracing system. Finally, complete the excavation by fitting guard rails & toe boards around open excavations for safe access and egress. Some contractors use timber boards in opposing pairs with an adjustable steel strut or other bracing system to force the boards against the sides of a narrow trench. This installation must be carried out by qualified and trained personnel. Contact your local Marwood Group Ltd for information about the Trench sheet safety system.

Inspection before and after work

A qualified and competent person must inspect the excavation and operation at the start of each shift and take the necessary precautions if required.

If entry to a confined space is unavoidable at the start of the shift or during the project, follow a safe system of work which must be included in the site-specific risk assessment; and put in place adequate emergency arrangements before the work start.

Trench sheets should also be inspected after any event that may have affected their strength or stability, or after a fall of rock or earth.

A record of the inspections and authorisation process must be kept and any faults that are found should be corrected immediately.

After use check

If trench sheets are to be removed/re-used, they must be cleaned/jet washed and store in a clean dry place.

Storage

Trench sheets are to be stored on a flat surface using timber bites or on suitable racking and kept neatly stacked.

Trench sheets must not be altered in any way.

A site visit can be arranged by Marwood Group Ltd if required, but we can only ever make a recommendation in good faith based on experience