



### **FLOWABLE FILL MATERIALS**

Flowable fill is a low strength material mixed to a wet, easily placed slurry that can be used to backfill sewer and utility trenches, to fill up abandoned underground storage tanks, wells and voids under pavement, and to pour foundation sub-bases and pipe bedding. It is a labor- and time-saving alternative to the use of compacted soil or granular materials. Flowable fill - sometimes referred to as flowable mortar or lean-mix backfill - is delivered in ready mixed concrete trucks and placed easily by chute into the cavity or into a pump for final placement. It is self-leveling with a consistency similar to pancake batter, and will harden and develop strength - although it is not considered to be concrete.

### **Important Considerations**

When ordering fill from your ready mixed company, it's important to describe its intended use and whether it will be removed later. If it is anticipated that the mixture will have to be excavated at some point in the future, its strength should be much lower than the 1200 pounds-per-square-inch (PSI) specified as the upper limit for so-called Controlled Low Strength Material. The late-age strength for fill that must eventually be removed should be in the range of 30 to 150 PSI.

### **Cautions**

This is a heavy material and during placement it will exert high fluid pressure against any forms, wall or embankment used to contain it. Placement of flowable fill around and underneath tanks, pipes or large containers like swimming pools may cause them to shift or float. And flowable fill is not designed to resist freezing and thawing, abrasive or erosive actions, or aggressive chemicals.