

# SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit Installation Guide



The people behind the power.™



**Southwire**®





# SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit Installation Guide

## Table of Contents

- 1 Product Description**
- 1 Scope of Guide**
- 1 Safety**
- 2 Proper Shipping & Handling**
  - Transporting Reels
  - Reel Payoff
- 4 Preparation for Installation**
  - Disconnect Cable at Ends
  - Position Reel Trailer
  - Pulling Heads or Eyes
- 6 Installation**
  - Trenching
  - Plowing
  - Directional Boring
  - Inner Duct
  - Bending & Backfill
- 11 Appendix A**
- 12 Appendix B**

## Product Description

Southwire Company's SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit system consists of either low voltage or medium voltage cables that are preassembled in a continuous length coilable polyethylene pipe. The number and size of cables installed in the conduit is determined by both the field application and by the end user. The size of the conduit can be adjusted to accommodate the necessary cables.

## Scope

This Installation Guide is provided to assist the user in the proper installation techniques for the direct burial directional boring, or pulling as inner duct of the SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit assembly. Methods described in this guide are only recommendations and are offered as suggestions for proper handling and installation practices for SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit.

## Safety

The methods and procedures in this guide are recommendations only and are not intended to replace or modify the user's standard operating procedures or safety requirements. Recommendations in this guide are only intended as suggestions for the proper handling and installation of the SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit assembly.

As with any work project, prior to the beginning of work, all personnel should be thoroughly familiar with the products and procedures necessary to complete the day's operations. Proper PPE, work area protection, and the safe use of equipment and material are the first priority.

All local, state, and Federal codes and safety requirements must be followed along with proper work site protection and traffic control in areas where indicated. As with the installation of any below ground equipment, all precautions concerning buried installations shall also be incorporated.



## Proper Shipping and Handling

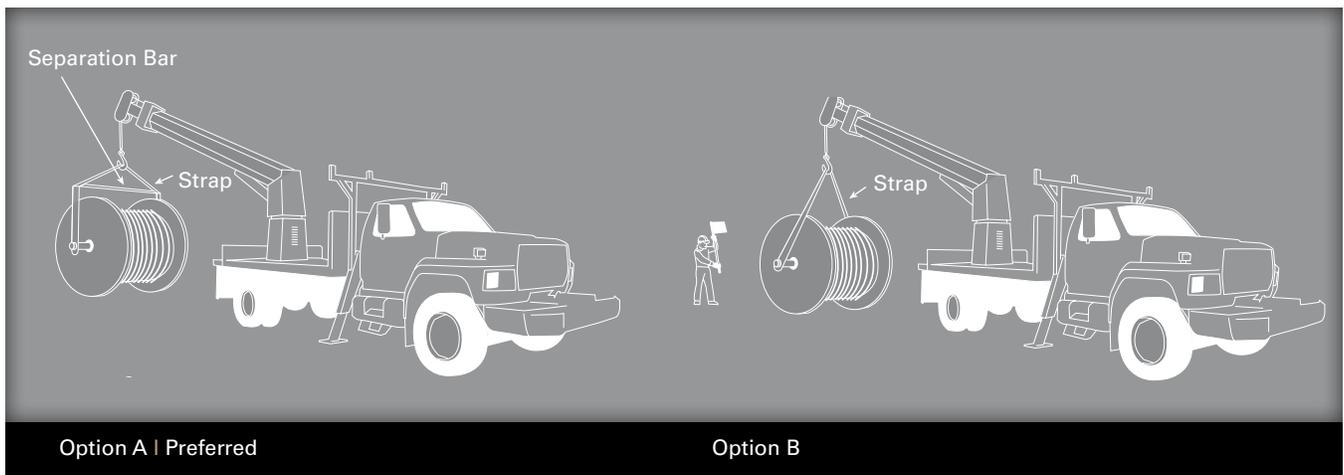
### Transporting Reels

Reels of SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit are always shipped in a vertical orientation and should not be transported, or stored or used in a horizontal (laid down) orientation. When lifting and transporting the reels by forklift, the flanges must be used for support. Under no circumstances would the reel be picked up by forklift with the forks on the conduit. [See Figure 1.1] Reels may also be lifted by a boom and winch assembly secured to a bar or other device through the arbor holes on both of the reel flanges. [See Figure 1.2]



When loading/unloading reels in a drive-on roll-off position, forks must be positioned under both reel flanges

[Figure 1.1]



Option A | Preferred

Option B

[Figure 1.2]

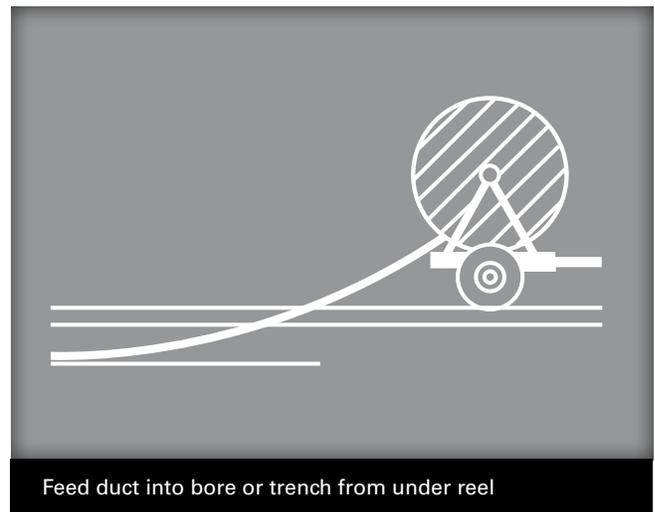
In this operation, proper spacing of the attaching cables must be maintained above the reel flange to prevent the collapse of the flange when lifting (see option A above).

Reels should be inspected prior to unloading or loading to ensure that there is no damage to the reel or conduit and cable assembly that can restrict reel rotation while paying off CIC.

### **Reel Payoff**

The payoff of the conduit from the reel needs to be determined prior to the reel being placed on the reel trailer. Reverse bending of the conduit needs to be avoided.

- For example, in open trench constructions or directional boring applications the recommended/preferred method is to feed the conduit from below the reel drum into the trench or bore opening. [See Figure 1.3]
- When feeding into a manhole, it is easier to feed the conduit from over the top of the drum into a guide.



[Figure 1.3]

These recommendations make handling of SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit much easier and minimize the potential kinking problems for the assembly.

## Preparation for Installation

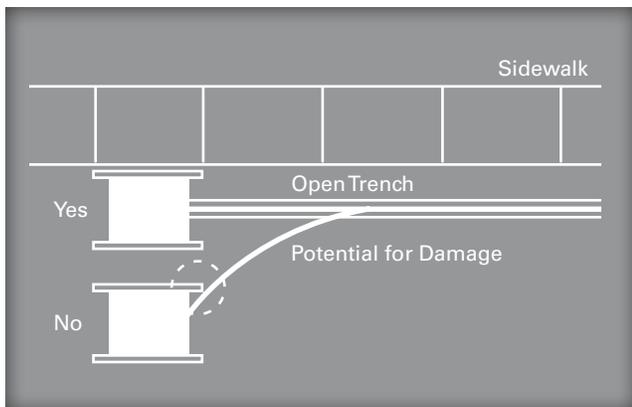
### Disconnect Cable at Ends

There is a placard on one of the reel flanges that warns the installer that there is a difference in the duct and cable length. This length difference develops as you unroll the conduit off the reel. This results in the conduit becoming longer than the cable inside. The allowance for the cable-to-duct difference need be no more than 1.5% of the conduit length unrolled. As stated on the placard, the cable movement occurs at the duct end being unrolled.

Because of this length difference between the conduit and the cable inside, it is **VERY** important to first cut the duct free of the reel flange, remove the end cap, and cut the restraint attaching the cable to the conduit. Once the cable has been freed from the conduit, then reinstall the end cap and seal it with tape or install a new end cap seal. With the end cap reinstalled, **SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit is ready for installation.**

### Position Reel Trailer

Reel trailers should be positioned such that you can feed the conduit as directly as possible toward the centerline of the placement sight. [See Figure 1.4]



[Figure 1.4]

## ***Pulling Grip or Eyes***

Attachment to SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit, using one of the following methods allows full utilization of the working strength of that duct size.

- The pulling force that can be safely applied during installation of SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit is a function of the conduit diameter and the wall thickness.
- A listing of working strengths for all conduit sizes is in **Appendix A**.
- Slip the pulling grip over the end of the capped conduit and tape bands and pull the grip down tightly.
- Apply tape from the surface of the duct up onto the end of the pulling head about 2”.
- Do not extend the tape on to the pulling head any more than the 2.” Additional tape will restrict the pulling grip’s compressive potential and greatly limit the allowable pulling tensions for that installation.

The primary method for attaching to SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit is by the use of a Wire Mesh Basket type-pulling grip.

- Due to the hardness and slickness of the surface, apply several compressible bands of friction tape to the SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit before installing the grip.
- The first band of tape should be applied approximately 6” from the end of the conduit and additional bands should be applied every 6” until there are bands of tape over the length of conduit that will be covered by the pulling grip.
- **The conduit must have an end cap installed prior to the pulling grip being installed.**

- Installation of an adjustable hose clamp over the end of the pulling grip to hold the pulling grip in place is also an acceptable option.

Alternatives to the use of the basket pulling grip would be a screw in eye or crimp on eye.

- If using either of these alternatives, **DO NOT** attach the cable end to the inside of the unit. Allow the cable to move freely.

No matter what attachment is used for pulling in SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit, it is imperative that a ball bearing swivel be used between the pulling line and the conduit pulling attachment. This prevents the transfer of twisting forces onto the duct from the pulling line. Do not consider a grip with a ‘built-in’ swivel as a replacement for the ball bearing swivel.

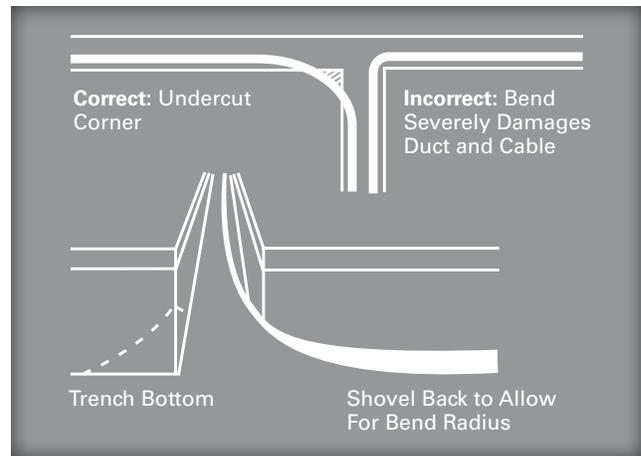
## Installation

### Trenching

The purpose of this section is to cover specific details on using Southwire SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit in trenching applications and does not offer specific instructions on trenching. Note, during construction of the trench, the installer should consider that every deviation in elevation or direction will have a negative impact on cable replacement tension. Enforcement of a policy of proper trench preparation assures the least resistance to cable pulling. In any case, the number of 90° bends should be limited to a maximum of 4. In general SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit should be installed in the trench as straight as possible (no “snaking”) and with as few bends as possible.

Minimize the severity of a bend when a change in depth is necessary. Provide a gradual transition from bore pits to desired trench depth and when forced to deviate around obstacles. When rapid grade changes exist, use shading or backfill to make the change as gradual as possible.

Intersections of trench lines where the SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit is to take a corner need to be undercut at burial depth to provide for the minimum bending radius of the conduit. [See Figure 1.5]



[Figure 1.5]

A listing of minimum bending radii for the different sizes of conduit is in **Appendix B**. Where possible, the bend radius should be as large as possible to reduce side wall bearing pressure (SWBP) and pulling tension during future cable replacement.

There are two basic methods of installing SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit in open trench applications:

- The first is to unreel the conduit from a stationary trailer. This is best accomplished by attaching the conduit to a backhoe or a trencher and traveling down beside the trench.
- The second is to secure the end of the conduit at the desired start location and moving the reel trailer along the trench route.
- In either case, when installing the conduit in a trench pull off the bottom of the reel as shown in Figure 1.3

During the payout of the duct from the reel, avoid over spinning of the reel. This can be achieved by using a trailer equipped with a hand brake, a braking system or by assigning a worker as a reel tender. Pulling the conduit off the reel under slight tension allows for the straightest installation. In all of these installation procedures, there should be an allowance at the front end of the conduit for the anticipated difference in the length of cable inside the conduit. As mentioned previously the added length of conduit over that of the cable is approximately 1.5%. For a 200' pull, this results in the need to bring the end an additional 3' to ensure there is adequate cable for necessary termination and connections.

When the conduit is cut at the end of a run, it is imperative that the cut end be sealed with an end cap immediately. You have selected SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit to provide a safe environment for your cable, so protect the integrity of your duct system by keeping it capped during and after installation.

When working in areas with a high water table, the trench may fill with water before restoration is complete. Since SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit is buoyant, the following steps should be followed:

- Water should be pumped out of the trench prior to the installation of the conduit.
- Plan on restraining the conduit in the bottom of the trench by using sand bags or other restraining material.

- Returning the soils to the trench will not restrain the conduit in a flooded trench.
- It should be noted that this same situation can exist when using concrete slurry as the backfill. Conduit must be secured down to prevent floating.

### ***Directional Boring***

As with other installation methods always remove the restraint on the conductor at the start end and let the conductor(s) go unattached. Ensure that a sealed end cap has been installed on the front end of the conduit to keep any foreign matter from entering and clogging the conduit.

Pull additional slack through the bore to ensure there is the adequate cable to account for the 1.5% excess conduit.

As with the trench installation discussed previously, use a swivel between the conduit grip or eye and the back reamer.

Use a back reamer that is at least 1.5 times the outside diameter of the conduit assembly being installed. As an example, a 1.5" conduit has an OD of 1.9"  $1.5 \times 1.9" = 2.85"$  so a 3" back reamer should be used. If two 1.5" conduits are to be installed then the equivalent OD would be 3.8" and  $3.8" \times 1.5 = 5.7$  so 6" back reamer should be used. Using a back reamer smaller than 1.5X can cause a build-up of water pressure in the bore hole that may necessitate digging a hole along the drill route to relieve the water pressure.

## **Plowing**

There are two basic methods of plowing: pull plowing and chute plowing. SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit is suitable for both techniques, although both require different product considerations. SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit provides the mechanical protection and strength necessary to use these construction methods with delicate cables.

As with the trenching technique, the conduit route is very important. Every deviation in elevation or direction will have a negative impact on cable pulling tensions in the future. Minimizing any elevation or directional changes will assure the least resistance to future cable pulling.

In most cases, it is beneficial to “pre-rip” the route prior to installing SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit. While this is sometimes viewed as an unproductive step, it can increase ultimate plow speed and also locate potential problems such as existing services, utilities, and immovable objects prior to duct placement.

## **Pull Plowing**

This process involves pulling the duct into the ground behind either a vibratory or static plow blade. This method is efficient for placing short lengths of SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit and routes where there are frequent bores and laterals. Significant tension can be developed while pull plowing. It is difficult to accurately predict how

much tension will develop when pull plowing in an unfamiliar area. Pull plowing should be limited to a maximum length of 200’

SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit should always be attached to the plow with a swivel behind the tunneling “bullet” that is used to form the opening for the CIC assembly. The plow needs to be set to open a hole with the bullet to a diameter of at least 1” larger than the outside diameter of the conduit.

## **Chute Plowing**

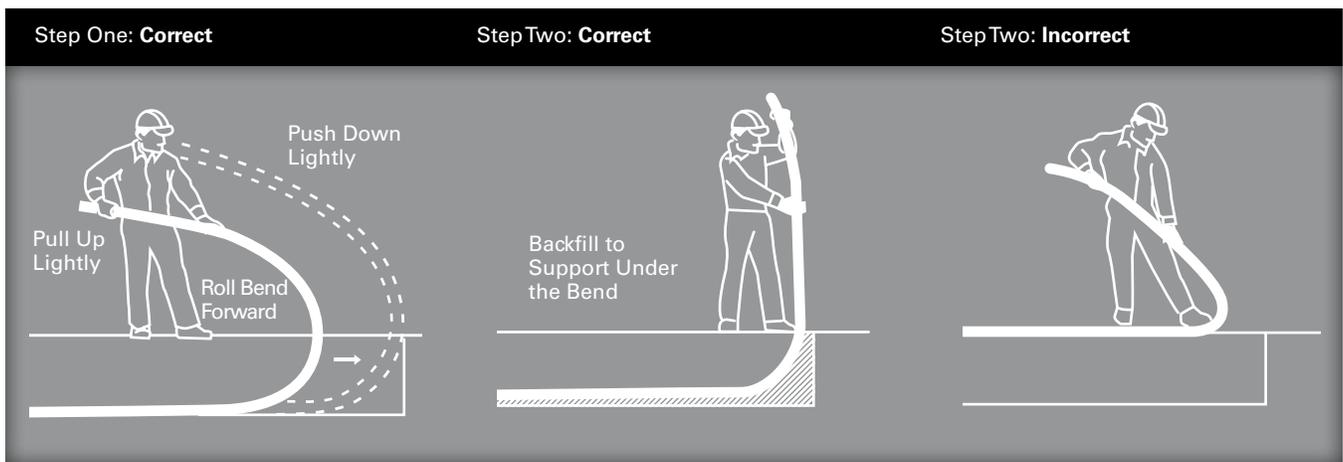
This process involves feeding SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit through a chute attached to the back of the plow blade. Minimal tension is applied to the assembly, allowing long lengths to be plowed without overstressing the conduit assembly.

The chute interior must be free of surface roughness, burrs, or sharp edges that can damage the conduit. There should be a removable gate on the chute to facilitate conduit placement in the plow chute. The inside diameter of the chute should be approximately 1/2” larger than the outside diameter of the conduit being installed. The radius of the bend at the bottom of the plow should be at least 20x the outside diameter of the conduit (see Appendix B for a listing of conduit diameters).



## Bending & Backfill

SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit does not require preformed bends or sweeps. You can easily form a bend required to sweep up into pedestals or transformer pads. This can be accomplished without the use of a heat source or additional tools even in sub-freezing weather. The technique used for bending is best described as “rolling in a bend”. Figure 1.6 shows how to use leverage to form a bend without applying force with your hands or feet directly in the desired bend area.



[Figure 1.6]

Form the sweep by bending the conduit back over itself forming a horizontal ‘U’ beyond the desired angle. Be careful not to be less than the minimum bending radius for the conduit and then return to the vertical position in the desired location. Backfill under the bend to support the conduit.

For all 90° turns or severe bends in the trench, the bottom corner of the trench must be undercut such that the minimum bending radius of the conduit is not violated, as in Figure 1.5.

### Installation Questions?

Please contact your Southwire representative or call our Product Support line at 1-800-444-1700, extension 4427.

## Appendix A

### Safe Working Strengths for SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit

Installation sometimes requires large pulling loads be applied to SIMpull® Cable-In-Conduit. The table below lists how much tensile force can be applied without damaging the conduit. Quantities are based on the following formula:

$$WS = AD \times T$$

**Where:**

WS = Working strength

AD = Duct cross-sectional area (at minimum allowable wall thickness)

T = Tensile strength of resin (at <3.5% strain)

These working strengths are established as guidelines to prevent damage to SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit during installation and to serve as a guide in selecting a duct that offers the strengths necessary for the anticipated load. These values are conservative, as they are based on the duct being at the minimum rather than nominal wall thickness, and use a value for tensile strength that can be safely applied and related without significant dimensional change to SIMpull Cable-In-Conduit.

### Allowable Tension during Pulling

Conduit Size	EPEC-17	EPEC-13.5	EPEC-40	EPEC-80	EPEC-11
3/4"	408	506	708	920	606
1"	635	788	1050	1358	958
1-1/4"	1022	1262	1422	1872	1522
1-1/2"	1337	1655	1698	2274	1995
2"	2089	2593	2274	3145	3124
2 1/2"	3060	3783	3613	4781	4548
3"	4526	5610	4739	6418	6758
4"	N/A	9265	N/A	9371	11178

## Appendix B

### Secondary UD Electrical Cable-In-Conduit

#### Conduit Dimensional Specifications

Nominal Size	Average OD (inches)	Bend Radius (inches)	Standard Conduit		EPEC-40		EPEC-80		EPEC-13.5		EPEC-11		EPEC-17	
			Min. Wall (inches)	Average ID (inches)										
3/4"	1.050	10	0.060	.910	0.113	0.804	0.154	0.722	0.078	0.874	0.095	0.840	0.062	.906
1"	1.315	12	0.075	1.145	0.133	1.029	0.179	0.936	0.097	1.101	0.120	1.055	0.077	1.141
1-1/4"	1.660	15	0.100	1.440	0.140	1.360	0.191	1.255	0.123	1.394	0.151	1.338	0.098	1.444
1-1/2"	1.900	17	0.115	1.650	0.145	1.590	0.200	1.476	0.141	1.598	0.173	1.533	0.112	1.656
2"	2.375	21	0.145	2.065	0.154	2.047	0.218	1.913	0.176	2.002	0.216	1.917	0.140	2.075
2-1/2"	2.875	27	0.203	2.445	0.203	2.445	0.276	2.290	0.213	2.423	0.261	2.322	0.169	2.517
3"	3.500	32	0.216	3.042	0.216	3.042	0.300	2.864	0.259	2.951	0.318	2.826	0.206	3.063

#### Standard Reel Information

Size	Reel Dimensions (inches)		Footage	Truckload 45 Foot Flatbed	
	Flange	Width		Reels	Feet
3/4"	50	37	2500	20	50,000
1"	54	37	1500	20	30,000
1"	54	37	2500	20	50,000
1-1/4"	66	47	2500	16	40,000
1-1/4"	90	47	6000	14	72,000
1-1/2"	66	47	1500	16	24,000
1-1/2"	72	47	2500	14	35,000
2"	78	47	1500	14	21,000
2"	90	47	3000	10	30,000
2-1/2"	83	47	1000	12	12,000
2-1/2"	102	47	2500	10	25,000
3"	96	47	1000	10	10,000

Additional reel sizes are available on request



