

LIFE OF CONCRETE PIPE

Occasionally the question arises as to how long concrete pipe will last. It is a generally accepted fact that concrete pipe will last at least 100 years and probably several centuries.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) "Process Design Manual for Sulfide Control in Sanitary Sewerage Systems", Page 6-13, states:

"Small collecting sewers will have a life expectancy of 100 years or more Very large pipes, a life of several centuries would be expected ..."

The oldest known concrete sanitary sewer in the United States is a 6-inch diameter pipe installed in 1842 in Mohawk, New York, which is still in operation today.

Numerous cities installed concrete sewer pipes for their collection systems beginning in the mid-1860's.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) conducted an extensive survey of more than 1,600 culverts to determine the corrosion and abrasion resistance of various types of pipes. Figures 30 and 31 of the ODOT Report (Culvert Durability Study, ODOT/L&D/82-1) indicate an expected life of concrete pipe to exceed several centuries.

Natural cement concrete was used in building the Cloaca Maxima or main sewer in Rome in 800 B.C., portions of which are still in operation today. While not precast concrete pipe, concrete has proven to be a product of lasting quality.