

Contractor Base Installation

1. Dig a hole that is 18"-20" in diameter and 18"-20" deep. (Flip over for a visual diagram.)
2. Using a posthole digger, dig a small-in-diameter hole in the center of the first hole to 6" below frost line.
- *This varies by state. For example, in the Twin Cities, the frost line is 42", so we dig to 48".*
3. Taper the larger hole into the smaller hole, so all moisture will run downhill into the smaller hole. The taper only needs to be around 1" or so. Clean both holes of loose dirt.
4. Fill the small-in-diameter hole with river rock, best because it won't pack.
5. Line the larger hole with a plastic liner, such as a contractor garbage bag. The plastic liner will keep dirt from migrating into the rock that you are going to add next. Do not line the smaller hole with plastic.
6. There are two (2) parts to the contractor base. The female part has a hole drilled in the center to drain water; the male part has four (4) nuts welded on to attach the rotating base of the umbrella. Separate the parts and set aside the male part for now.
7. Fill the bottom part of the larger hole with rock, then set the female part of the contractor base on top of the rock. Make sure that the top of the female part of the contractor base stick *above* the finished pavers when they are put back in place by about 1/2" .
8. Once the contractor base is the right height and right where you want it, take a small piece of plastic and cut a little X in the middle, then slide it over the female part of the base. This will prevent concrete from migrating through the stone and plugging the drain hole in the contractor base.
9. Insert the male part of the contractor base into the female part. Get a level and make sure that the top of the contractor base is level.
10. Mix two or three bags of concrete – about 100-120 lbs (add more if desired). Pour the mixed concrete around the contractor base, tapping a little to fill all the bubbles, then smooth the top. The top of the concrete should be *lower* than the bottom of the pavers. After the concrete is poured but before it gets hard, make sure that the top of the contractor base is level. Once the concrete has hardened, you can add a little sand and put the pavers back in place. Brace if necessary.

NOTE: Concrete takes time to get most of its strength – please wait at least two (2) days before installing your umbrella.

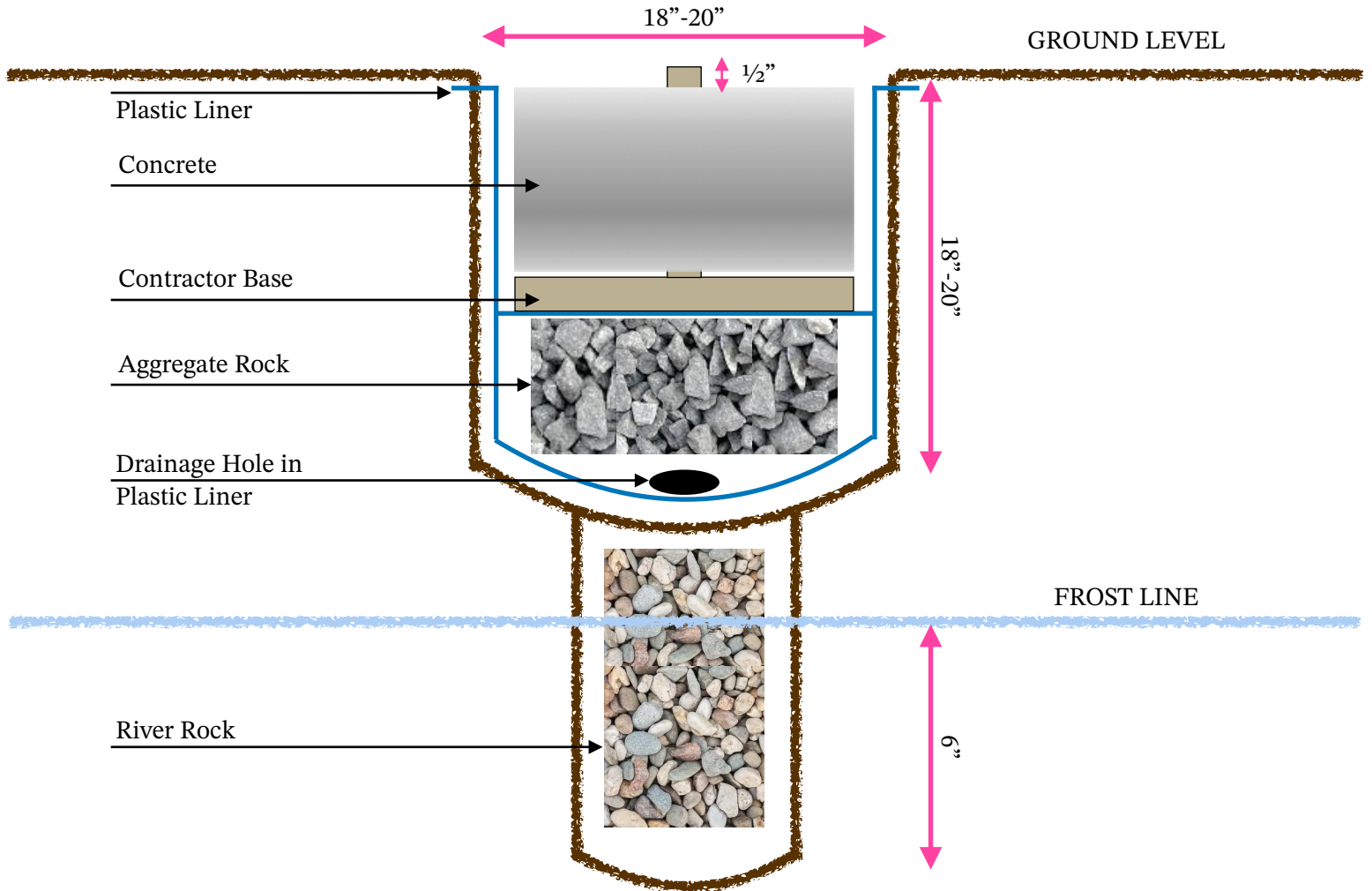
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