



DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems

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What is a helical pile? A helical pile consists of a high strength steel shaft with one or more helical bearing plates attached. It is rotary installed into the ground to support a variety of commercial, residential and industrial structures.

Where are helical piles used? Helical piles are generally used when challenging soil conditions prohibit the use of a traditional foundation system, although, because of their remarkable performance, helical piles should be used whenever possible.

How are helical piles installed? Using a hydraulic rotary drive head mounted on a variety of equipment. This can be anything from hand carried equipment up to large excavator mounted equipment. One of DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems's experienced project managers will determine the most suitable equipment for your job site.

How long have helical piles been in existence? There is documentation that dates back to circa 1720 in England when the helical pile was actually invented. Lighthouses were supported by hand-installed helical piles in the 1800's.

How do you attach a helical pile to an existing foundation? The pile is permanently attached using a patented steel foundation underpinning bracket or on new construction the Top of the Helical Pile is fitted with a new construction bracket.

Can you re-level a structure with helical piles? Yes, the steel foundation underpinning bracket allows us to use a hydraulic jack to raise or lower the foundation then mechanically lock the bracket permanently in place and remove the hydraulic jack.

I am an Engineer, is it difficult to design a foundation using helical piles? No, you may contact us and one of DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems team members will be more than happy to assist you. We can also provide you with your own copy of the "Design, Installation and Testing of Helical Piles and Anchors manual" Presented by: Donald A. Deardorff, P.E. CHANCE ® Civil Construction.

Can a helical pile be installed in confined spaces? Yes, we routinely install helical piles in tight quarters such as residential and commercial crawl spaces and inside basements using hand carried equipment powered by remote hydraulic units.

How soon can you get started on my project? Because DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems is staffed, equipped and maintains a helical pile material inventory second to none, we are always able to meet our customers schedule requirements. Rest assured, you won't be waiting weeks while we tell you the material is on order. We always have the right material ready and waiting for your project.

How long does it take to install a Helical Pile? With our specialized equipment and experienced installation crews, all with many years experience with DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems, we are able to install a pile in a matter of minutes. For instance; one crew can install from just a few to 60 piles in one day for a new construction application, This is all based on the complexity of the project..

Why is there a helix or helices only on the lead section of the pile? Because a helical pile is installed through unstable soil down to stable soil or bedrock. The pile is referred to as an "end bearing pile" which means the load is transferred down the bare extension shafts to the lead shaft helical bearing plates (or helix).

How long does a Helical Pile last? The Helical Pile product that DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems uses is galvanized to protect it from corrosion. In most soils the useful life of the pile is in excess of 200 years.

What are the advantages of Helical Piles? Helical Piles are fast, clean, cost effective and offer superior performance to all other deep or shallow foundation types including over excavation & backfill. Helical pile capacities are measured and determined during installation using torque vs. capacity calculations. DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems will certify the actual load bearing capacity of each pile or tension anchor we install. Piers or Tie backs can be immediately loaded to full design load upon completion of installation.

What's the difference between a pier and pile? None, the two words mean the same thing in this case.

How much do Helical Piles cost? Each project is unique in it's application of Helical Pile design and installation. We evaluate and estimate each job individually and provide a detailed cost proposal. Helical Piles are an economical choice and when their outstanding performance is considered, Helical Piles are a great value.

Where are they made? Our Helical piles are manufactured by the AB Chance company, Which Is a US company so they are made in the USA and made with USA steel and is ISO9000 certified all piles have tracking numbers allowing all steel to be traced all the way back through the manufacturing process all the way to the steel mill this is done to ensure the quality of each Helical Pile produced.