



Best Practices - Drill Bit Pilot Hole

1. First tip is to use a larger 2" SDS MAX Rotary Hammer Drill when using this Drill Bit. This drill bit is 66" long and 1 3/8" dia.
2. Next tip is to understand that there is a difference between drilling pilot holes for Earth Anchor installations in difficult soils and drilling pilot holes in bedrock for our expandable Rock anchors.
 - a) Pilot holes for Earth anchors need to be drilled at the appropriate 10°-15° angles outward on the rear legs and vertical on the front legs.
 - b) While drilling these pilot holes you want to drill a small amount at a time and continuously pull the drill bit out to clear the flutes so that the drill bit does not bind up in the soil.
 - a) You may want to have a second person on hand to help lift the drill bit out of the ground to accomplish this task as some soil can become sticky and make it difficult to pull the drill bit out to clear the flutes.
 - c) Adding a small amount of water in the hole after you get down to about 10" or so will help lubricate the hole and keep the drill bit from getting stuck.
 - d) Pilot holes for Rock anchors should be drilled vertically through each shoe plate to a depth about Ten inches into the bedrock. Again, using a small amount of water for harder rocks will help keep the bit cool and prevent it from expanding due to heat and allow it to not bind up in the rock.
 - e) You may also want to use compressed air to clean out the rock hole once the desired depth has been reached.
 - f) Any bedrock discovered 4' or deeper will not work as the All-thread itself for each Rock anchor is only 4' long. In this case an Earth anchor can be driven to the 4' mark and tested. Minimum soil depth for Earth anchors is 30" or below your frost depth.
3. Next tip is to make sure while drilling the holes that you maintain a solid hold of the Drill itself. Often the tip of the drill bit may catch the side of the hole on a rock or root and may cause the drill to spin around like a top. Never let your guard down while drilling holes with this set up.
4. Lastly in winter month installs some have chosen to use biodegradable anti-freeze to lubricate the holes while drilling through the top layer of frozen ground. Water would more than likely freeze inside the hole if left to sit after the hole has been drilled and may make soil freeze to the drill bit if left on the ground after drilling the hole.

