

# Product Spotlight

## New System Enables Cost-Effective Manhole Repairs

By Ken Wysocky

Rainwater infiltration from leaky manholes greatly increases sewage treatment costs. But many municipalities nationwide put off repairs because replacing manholes can be expensive, time-consuming and labor-intensive.

The Mr. Manhole system enables a crew to replace a chimney section in less than an hour. In addition, a patented device trims off the new manhole casting so that it aligns with the road elevation, eliminating bumps.

“If you look at the amount of leakage you’re reducing versus the dollars spent, this system gives you excellent bang for your buck,” notes Mike Crites, president of Mr. Manhole. “You’re reducing manhole infiltration by 50 percent but replacing only about 10 percent of the manhole. Those savings can then be used to fund other infrastructure improvements.”

The system’s centerpiece is a cutter extractor, an auger-driven tool that mounts on a conventional skid-steer. (It is best suited for a track skid-steer with at least 20-gpm hydraulic flow.) In minutes, the cutter’s replaceable blade can dry-cut through concrete and asphalt and remove the old lid, the casting, and the road overcut in one piece.

The cutter extractor adjusts to fit a wide range of casting sizes, and the extractor plate swivels, allowing it to align with out-of-level castings. The diameter of the cutter can be adjusted to fit the proper overcut distance.

After the extractor removes the casting, a new insert liner is installed. The liner stops water infiltration and protects the collar from the effects of gases that accumulate inside the manhole. A gasoline-powered ring saw with an adjustable cutting depth trims the liner at the angle required to match the slope of the road. It can cut liners from 12 to 50 inches in diameter.

Crew members then apply a top sealant, re-install the casting, and pour a new concrete collar. The collar is made from steel-reinforced, vibrated concrete that contains black dye to blend with the surrounding asphalt.

Mr. Manhole offers the system to manhole rehabilitation contractors and municipalities. A kit comes with all materials needed to repair 20 manhole chimney sections, including the insert liners, a specially formulated sealant and sealant strips, and reinforcing rings. An installation certification program is available. **For more information, call 419/229-3015 or visit [www.mrmanhole.com](http://www.mrmanhole.com).**



Mr. Manhole

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