



Designation: ~~D6917–03 (Reapproved 2011)~~ **D6917 – 16**

Standard Guide for Selection of Test Methods for Prefabricated Vertical Drains (PVD)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6917; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope ~~Scope*~~

1.1 This guide provides recommendations for the selection of appropriate test methods for prefabricated vertical geocomposite drains (sometimes referred to as Wick Drains) used in geotechnical engineering applications to provide consistency in data reporting.

1.2 This guide includes test methods for all types of prefabricated geocomposite drains manufactured in a plant and consisting of a polymeric core structure with a synthetic fabric (geotextile) jacket for filtration.

1.3 This guide is intended to aid all personnel involved in the selection, manufacture, installation, or evaluation of prefabricated vertical drains.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- ~~D3786 Test Method for Bursting Strength of Textile Fabrics—Diaphragm Bursting Strength Tester Method~~
- ~~D4491 Test Methods for Water Permeability of Geotextiles by Permittivity~~
- ~~D4533 Test Method for Trapezoid Tearing Strength of Geotextiles~~
- ~~D4632 Test Method for Grab Breaking Load and Elongation of Geotextiles~~
- ~~D4716 Test Method for Determining the (In-plane) Flow Rate per Unit Width and Hydraulic Transmissivity of a Geosynthetic Using a Constant Head~~
- ~~D4751 Test Method for Determining Apparent Opening Size of a Geotextile~~
- ~~D4884 Test Method for Strength of Sewn or Bonded Seams of Geotextiles~~
- ~~D4886 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Geotextiles (Sand Paper/Sliding Block Method)~~
- ~~D5101 Test Method for Measuring the Filtration Compatibility of Soil-Geotextile Systems~~
- ~~D5199 Test Method for Measuring the Nominal Thickness of Geosynthetics~~
- ~~D5261 Test Method for Measuring Mass per Unit Area of Geotextiles~~
- ~~D5322 Practice for Laboratory Immersion Procedures for Evaluating the Chemical Resistance of Geosynthetics to Liquids~~
- ~~D5493 Test Method for Permittivity of Geotextiles Under Load~~
- ~~D5567 Test Method for Hydraulic Conductivity Ratio (HCR) Testing of Soil/Geotextile Systems~~
- ~~D5819 Guide for Selecting Test Methods for Experimental Evaluation of Geosynthetic Durability~~
- ~~D6241 Test Method for Static Puncture Strength of Geotextiles and Geotextile-Related Products Using a 50-mm Probe~~
- ~~D6364 Test Method for Determining Short-Term Compression Behavior of Geosynthetics~~
- ~~D6389 Practice for Tests to Evaluate the Chemical Resistance of Geotextiles to Liquids~~
- ~~D6918 Test Method for Testing Vertical Strip Drains in the Crimped Condition~~
- ~~D7498 Test Method for Vertical Strip Drains Using a Large Scale Consolidation Test~~

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *geocomposite, n*—a product composed of two or more materials, at least one of which is a geosynthetic.

3.1.2 *geosynthetic, n*—a planar product manufactured from polymeric material used with soil, rock, earth, or other geotechnical engineering related material as an integral part of a manmade project, structure, or system.

3.1.3 *geotechnical engineering, n*—the engineering application of geotechnics.

3.1.4 *geotechnics, n*—the application of scientific methods and engineering principles to the acquisition, interpretation, and use of knowledge of materials of the earth's crust to the solution of engineering problems.

3.1.5 *geotextiles, n*—any permeable textile material used in foundation, soil, rock, earth, or any other geotechnical engineering related material, as an integral part of a manmade project, structure, or system.

3.1.6 *vertical strip drain, n*—a geocomposite consisting of a geotextile cover and drainage core installed vertically into soil to provide drainage for accelerating consolidation of soils.

3.1.6.1 Discussion—

Also known as band drain, wick drain, or prefabricated vertical drain (PVD).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 To properly evaluate prefabricated vertical drains, tests must be performed according to specific test methods and procedures. Failure to follow this practice can result in data not representative of the product's characteristics and performance.

5. Test Methods

5.1 Recommended test methods for prefabricated vertical drains have been grouped into 2 categories and are listed in tables as follows:

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