



# Helical Piles

## Questions & Answers



### What are Helical Piles?

Helical piles, also referred to as helical anchors, helical piers or screw piles are a type of foundation system used to transfer structure loads to competent load bearing soils. They are round or square steel tubes with bearing plates that come in various diameters and gauges.

### What are Helical Piles used for?

They are used for underpinning existing foundations and carrying loads for new structures. They are ideal for projects where noise, soil disturbance, time constraints and site access are of concern. They are a versatile foundation choice that can be used in different types of projects in any kind of soil conditions including areas with standing water.

### How do Helical Piles work?

They are screwed into the ground to a depth that achieves minimum required torque values determined by a licensed engineer, and verified by a certified installer or special inspector.

### What are the permit requirements for using Helical Piles?

Since helical piles are not prescriptively regulated in the building code, they must be installed according to manufacturer installation requirements and an Evaluation Service Report (ESR) that each brand of helical pile has. Every permit issued will have a project specific ESR.

### What are the required permit application documents for Helical Piles?

1. A completed permit application.
2. A Minnesota State licensed engineer designed plan or letter that describes construction details of the project and demonstrates compliance with the ESR conditions of use.
3. Copy of installer certification.
4. A site plan (*when applicable*) for zoning review.

