



MARCONITE EARTH ELECTRODE BACKFILL

A reliable solution for lowering resistance to earth as part of earthing and lightning protection



Certain ground conditions make it difficult to obtain a very low earth resistance, which can be required for some particular installations. For such cases, Marconite provides a convenient and permanent solution.

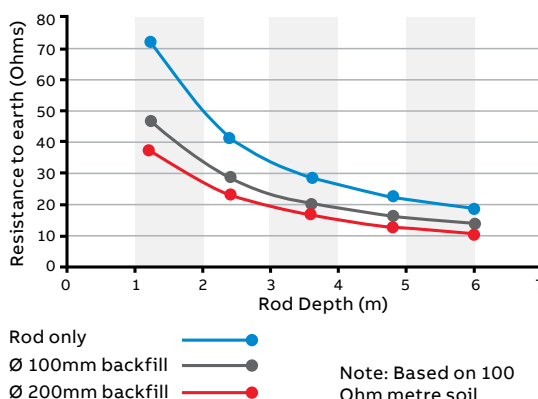


By adding Marconite in place of sand and aggregate to cement, a conductive concrete is formed. This enables this electrically conductive concrete to be used in many earthing applications, but it is primarily used within power generation and distribution, rail, underground and transport networks, telecommunication sites and defence facilities.

When used as a backfill for an earth electrode, Marconite will reduce its resistance to earth by greatly increasing the electrode's surface area and therefore improving its contact with the surrounding soil. For example, increasing the effective diameter of a rod from typically 15 mm to 200 mm, could lower its resistance to earth by as much as 50% (see graph).

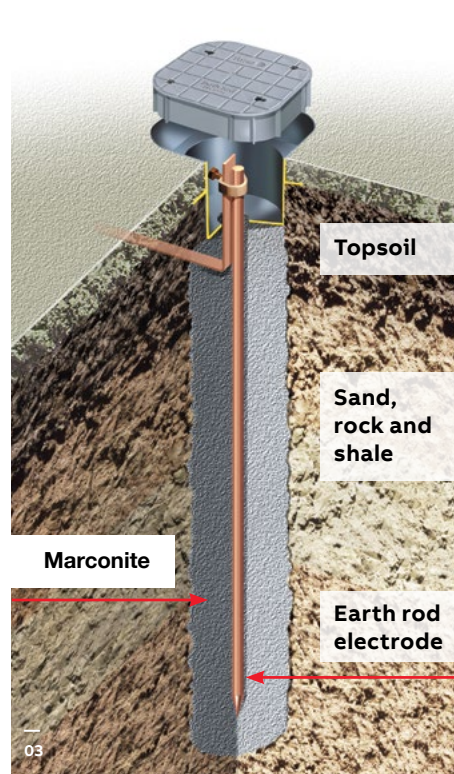


Resistance versus diameter



Features and benefits:

- Tested to industry standard**
Fully compliant with IEC 62561-7 lightning protection systems components (LPSC) - Part 7: requirement for earth enhancing compounds
- Permanent earth reading**
Resistivity that will remain constant over the life of the installation with no maintenance needed
- Constant volume** Marconite will not shrink or expand, thus maintaining constant contact between the earth electrode and the soil
- Cost-effective**
Reduces drilling, saves on earthing materials, and requires no expensive maintenance
- Environmentally friendly**
Chemically inert and completely non-corrosive in both aggressive and non-aggressive environments
- Fast-drying properties**
Allows for quick and easy installation
- Mechanical strength**
Provides high compressive strength where required and will not in any way damage earth electrodes, steelwork or concrete
- Versatile installation**
Suitable for use in boreholes and trenches



01 Marconite concrete layer applied prior to installation of a lattice earth mat.

02 Backfilling completed by layer of Marconite concrete applied above the lattice earth mat. Remaining ground made good with originally excavated material.

03 Marconite concrete used as a backfill for a conventional earth rod to achieve a lower earth electrode resistance.

Marconite versus other methods of earth improvement

Chemical solutions such as copper sulphate, sodium carbonate, calcium sulphate and sodium chloride (table salt) mixed with charcoal are sometimes poured into the ground to improve earth readings, but these have the disadvantages of:

- being required in large quantities to make a difference
- requiring constant moisture to remain effective
- drying out if moisture is not present
- eventually leaching out of the soil, returning the earth resistivity to its former high value, unless regularly and expensively maintained
- causing corrosion of the earth electrode system and deterioration of concrete (particularly relevant to transmission towers)

Chemical earth rods perforated metal tubes packed with a chemical compound are also sometimes used, but these:

- are costly
- are subject to leaching or washing away of the chemicals unless maintained

Marconite is a non-corrosive permanent solution to earthing problems, providing a stable and maintenance free earth that will not vary significantly regardless of seasonal factors.

Mixing Procedure The Marconite to cement/water ratio necessary for a particular application will depend on the workability and compressive strength required of the conductive concrete.

A typical specification would be 3:1 by weight e.g. in order to mix 1 m³ of conductive backfill, mix 975 kg of Marconite to 325 kg of cement and 250/300 litres of water. The mixing and placing of the concrete conforms to normal practices.

Marconite earth electrode backfill

Description	ABB Product Code	Weight (kg)	Part No.
Marconite	7TCA083870R1818	25	TCMA-CM035
Marconite Premix (conductive earthing mix supplied with cement)	7TCA083870R1819	25	TMCA-CM040

TOTAL CONNECTIONS
2009

ABB

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