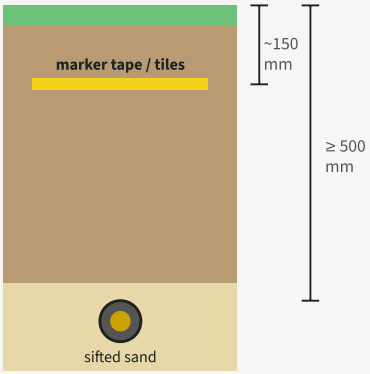
GARDENS AND OUTBUILDINGS

HOW DEEP DOES A BURIED GARDEN CABLE GO?



SWA cable (armoured)

- **Bury** garden cables **at least 500 mm** deep, preferably deeper, and **at least 600 mm** where "double digging" is likely, such as a vegetable plot. About 2 ft (600 mm) is the usual.
- Lay **marker tape or cable tiles** about **150 mm** below the surface along the route, so a spade hits the warning first.
- Use **SWA** (armoured) or a **metal-sheathed** cable, or run it in a **conduit or duct** (like a flexible hoover pipe). Bedding it in sifted sand is common practice. Burying is best practice, but SWA clipped along a fence or wall is also used.
- Mark the route with **route markers** and record it on the **drawings kept with the EIC**, so the next person knows where it runs.
- **What BS 7671 says (Reg 522.8.10):** no depth is given. Unless it is in a conduit or duct giving equivalent mechanical protection, a buried cable needs an **earthed armour or metal sheath** suitable for use as a protective conductor. Its route is marked with **cable covers or marker tape**, and it goes deep enough to avoid damage from any reasonably foreseeable disturbance of the ground. The depths above come from the Electrician's Guide, not BS 7671.
- **Outbuildings** (sheds, garages) are usually fed from the house consumer unit to a small **distribution board** in the outbuilding, with its own switch and sockets.

Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs · 5.7.2 fixed cables: buried cables in gardens (depth, marker tape) · **p.96**

BS 7671 · Reg 522.8.10 buried cables · **p.153**

Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs · Figure 5.7.3 outbuilding supply · **p.97**

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