

Document: GD-P-05 Storm Drain vs Culvert Pipe 250221

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To facilitate compliance with NMDOT Specification 570, this section provides definitions for Storm Drain pipe as compared to Culvert Pipe/Cross Drains. These definitions are relevant to pipe material selection and joint selection as shown in *Specification Table 570.2:1 Culvert Material Applications*, and *Table 570.2.2:1 Joint Selection*. The definitions in this document are only for compliance with Specification 570 and are not intended to contradict, change, or impact any other definitions in the Drainage Design Manual. Unusual or ambiguous situations will be resolved as determined by the NMDOT Drainage Engineer.

Culvert Pipe/Cross Drains: BOTH ends of the pipe have one of the typical culvert end treatments (headwall, flared end section, mitered to slope, or projecting). Plan sets should refer to these pipe segments as **Culvert Pipe**.

Storm Drain: Either one or both ends of the pipe are connected to a drop inlet or a manhole. Plan sets should refer to these pipe segments as **Storm Drain**.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FIGURE 1 AND EXAMPLES

Combination configurations exist and each segment or pipe run should use the appropriate pipe material and joints. See Figure 1 below and these corresponding descriptions.

- A) Storm drain network with multiple drop inlets, manholes, and pipe segments. All pipes are Storm Drain.
- B) A median drop inlet with an outlet pipe that discharges into the top of a crossing culvert. The culvert crosses under both lanes of a divided highway and the depressed median. Storm Drain requirements apply to the red pipe from the drop inlet to the crossing culvert (cross-drain). Culvert Pipe requirements apply to the green crossing culvert pipe that conveys flows under the divided roadways.
- C) A median drop inlet with an outlet pipe under one lane of the roadway. Storm Drain requirements apply to the outlet pipe.
- D) A median drop inlet connected by a lateral to a crossing culvert. Storm Drain requirements apply to the red pipe from the drop inlet to the culvert. Culvert Pipe requirements apply to the green crossing culvert pipe that conveys flows under the divided roadways.
- E) A crossing culvert without any connections. Culvert Pipe requirements apply to the green crossing culvert pipe that conveys flows under the divided roadways.

Figure 1: Storm Drain vs. Culvert Pipe (a more refined graphic is under development)

