

## MINIMUM COVER REQUIREMENTS

### 0 to 600 Volts, Nominal, Burial in Inches

Location of Wiring Method or Circuit	Type of Wiring Method or Circuit				
	Direct Burial Cables or Conductors	Rigid Metal Conduit or Intermediate Metal Conduit	Nonmetallic Raceways Listed for Direct Burial without Concrete Encasement or Other Approved Raceways	Residential Branch Circuits Rated 120 Volts or Less with GFCI Protection and Maximum Overcurrent Protections of 20 Amperes	Circuits for Control of Irrigation and Landscape Lighting Limited to Not More than 30 Volts and Installed with Type UF or in other Identified Cable or Raceway
All locations not specified below	24	6	18	12	6
In trench below 2-inch thick concrete or equivalent	18	6	12	6	6
Under minimum of 4-inch thick concrete exterior slab with no vehicular traffic and the slab extending not less than 6 inches beyond the underground installation	18	4	4	6 (direct burial) 4 (in raceway)	6
Under streets, highways, roads, alleys, driveways, and parking lots	24	24	24	24	24
One- and two-family dwelling driveways and outdoor parking areas that are used only for dwelling-related purposes	18	18	18	12	18

**Note: This table was developed from Table 300.5 of the Code where information for other Wiring Methods not listed above can be found. Revised for the 2008 Code, 300.5 B of the Code now contains definitive language defining the inside of all raceways and enclosures installed underground as wet locations. All conductors installed in these raceways must be approved for wet locations as listed in 310.8(C) of the Code.**

1. Cover is defined as the shortest distant in inches measured between a point on the top surface of any direct-buried conductor, cable, conduit or other raceway and the top surface of finished grade, concrete, or similar cover.
2. Raceways approved for burial only where concrete encased shall require concrete envelope not less than 2 inches thick.
3. Lesser depths shall be permitted where cables and conductors rise for terminations or splices or where access is otherwise required.
4. Where one of the wiring methods listed in Columns 1-3 is used for the circuit types in Columns 4 & 5, the shallowest depth of burial shall be permitted.
5. Where solid rock prevents compliance with the cover depths specified in this table, the wiring shall be installed in metal or non-metallic raceway permitted for direct burial. The raceways shall be covered by a minimum of 2 inches of concrete extending down to rock.