

UNDERWATER TOOLS DEPTH GUIDELINE



For underwater hydraulic tools the applications are broken down into four quadrants depending on type of tool and method of operation.

The types of tools are percussive and rotational, each with different characteristics allowing for different depth operation. With percussive tools, the nitrogen accumulator PSI must counter the increase in ambient pressure found at lower depths. Since there is a maximum PSI for percussive tools they are limited to certain depths. Rotational tools do not have accumulators and thus capable of deeper depths.

The methods are broken into diver operated or remote operated vehicle (ROV). ROV's can reach lower depths and with an on-board hydraulic power source that is depth compensated, can operate hydraulic tools at depths of thousands of feet. ROV operation is still limited to the tool, for example a percussive tool has the same depth limitation whether ROV or diver operated.

Operation Overview

	Percussive	Rotational
Diver	Tools: Breakers, Hammer Drills and Chipping Hammers Max Depth: 500' - limitations due to accumulator PSI max (increase 40 PSI for every 100')	Tools: Grinders, Saws, Chain Saws Max Depth: 1000' - Reference hose sizing guide below
ROV	Tools: Breakers, Hammer Drills and Chipping Hammers Max Depth: 500' - limitations due to accumulator PSI max (increase 40 PSI for every 100')	Tools: Grinders, Saws, Chain Saws Max Depth: 1000' - Reference hose sizing guide below

Recommended Hose Diameters

Depth (ft)	8 GPM	12 GPM
100	5/8"	5/8"
300	3/4"	1"
600	1"	1"
1000	1"	1-1/4"

