

Using hydraulics to help install your house grounding rod

By Bruce Allison

When I had underground power installed, one of the local electric companies workmen came to my door and asked if he could have some water. I said "sure" I would get him a glass. But he said "no!" He didn't need a glass. But if I could fill his hard-hat with about a quart of water, that would be just fine. So I gave him his water.

Now this struck me as kind of funny! So I followed him out to the transformer site. What he did is one of the most interesting things I'd seen in a long time. He grabbed hold of the ground rod (1/2" x 8') and stuck it into the ground about 4 inches. He then poured a little water onto the edge of the rod which flowed down into the ground, he then raised the rod about 3" and then pushed it down. With an up and down motion he was able to push the rod a few more inches deeper.

By adding small amounts of water, and using an up and down motion an even penetration into the ground was achieved. It didn't take more than five minutes to sink it to the proper depth. He left about six inches exposed.

I called one of my friends about a year later just to talk. But he said he didn't have time because he was going to install a ground rod. So I told him I knew of a better way. By using a quart of water in a mason jar, instead of a sledge hammer, he bought into this idea. When I checked in with him later in the day, I asked him how it went and he said great.

Now this is a great technique, but I can't guarantee that it will work in all ground conditions. I have seen this done in the soils and clays of the Pacific Northwest. Δ

