



**CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION FOR  
CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER SYSTEMS**

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>353.01</b>	<b>SCOPE</b>
<b>353.02</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>
<b>353.03</b>	<b>DEFINITIONS</b>
<b>353.04</b>	<b>DESIGN AND SUBMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS</b>
<b>353.05</b>	<b>MATERIALS</b>
<b>353.06</b>	<b>EQUIPMENT - Not Used</b>
<b>353.07</b>	<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>
<b>353.08</b>	<b>QUALITY ASSURANCE - Not Used</b>
<b>353.09</b>	<b>MEASUREMENT FOR PAYMENT</b>
<b>353.10</b>	<b>BASIS OF PAYMENT</b>

**APPENDICES**

<b>353-A</b>	<b>Commentary</b>
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**353.01 SCOPE**

This specification covers the requirements for the construction of concrete curb and gutter, setbacks, gutter outlets, and bullnoses together with the installation of catch basin frames and grates which lie within the flow lines of the curb and gutter system.

**353.01.01 Specification Significance and Use**

This specification is written as a municipal-oriented specification. Municipal-oriented specifications are developed to reflect the administration, testing, and payment policies, procedures, and practices of many municipalities in Ontario.

Use of this specification or any other specification shall be as specified in the Contract Documents.

### **353.01.02 Appendices Significance and Use**

Appendices are not for use in provincial contracts as they are developed for municipal use, and then, only when invoked by the Owner.

Appendices are developed for the Owner's use only.

Inclusion of an appendix as part of the Contract Documents is solely at the discretion of the Owner. Appendices are not a mandatory part of this specification and only become part of the Contract Documents as the Owner invokes them.

Invoking a particular appendix does not obligate an Owner to use all available appendices. Only invoked appendices form part of the Contract Documents.

The decision to use any appendix is determined by an Owner after considering their contract requirements and their administrative, payment, and testing procedures, policies, and practices. Depending on these considerations, an Owner may not wish to invoke some or any of the available appendices.

### **353.02 REFERENCES**

When the Contract Documents indicate that municipal-oriented specifications are to be used and there is a municipal-oriented specification of the same number as those listed below, references within this specification to an OPSS shall be deemed to mean OPSS.MUNI, unless use of a provincial-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents. When there is not a corresponding municipal-oriented specification, the references below shall be considered to be the OPSS listed, unless use of a provincial-oriented specification is specified in the Contract Documents.

This specification refers to the following standards, specifications, or publications:

#### **Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications, Construction**

OPSS 206	Grading
OPSS 314	Untreated Granular Subbase, Base, Surface Shoulder, and Stockpiling
OPSS 350	Concrete Pavement and Concrete Base
OPSS 407	Construction of Maintenance Hole, Catch Basin, Ditch Inlet, and Valve Chamber Installation
OPSS 501	Compacting
OPSS 904	Concrete Structures
OPSS 905	Steel Reinforcement for Concrete
OPSS 919	Formwork and Falsework

#### **Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications, Material**

OPSS 1212	Hot Poured Rubberized Asphalt Joint Sealing Compound
OPSS 1308	Joint Filler in Concrete
OPSS 1315	White Pigmented Curing Compounds for Concrete
OPSS 1350	Concrete - Materials and Production
OPSS 1440	Steel Reinforcement for Concrete
OPSS 1850	Frames, Grates, Covers, and Gratings

## **CSA Standards**

A23.1-19 Concrete materials and Methods of Concrete Construction/Test Methods and Standard Practices for Concrete

### **353.03 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this specification, the following definitions apply:

**Cold Joint** means as defined in OPSS 904

**Cold Weather** means as defined in OPSS 904.

**Concrete Pavement** means concrete pavement or concrete base.

**Curb and Gutter** means curb, gutter, or combinations of curb and gutter.

**Curb and Gutter Systems** means curb and gutter, setbacks, gutter outlets, concrete spillways, bullnoses, or any combination of them.

**Hot Weather** means as defined in OPSS 1350.

### **353.04 DESIGN AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **353.04.01 Submission Requirements**

Prior to starting the work, documentation shall be submitted, verifying that the Contractor's representative of the placing crew shall be on site and shall have the certification as specified in the Contract Documents.

### **353.05 MATERIALS**

#### **353.05.01 Concrete**

Concrete shall be according to OPSS 1350, with a minimum specified 28-Day compressive strength of 32 MPa, Class C-2 Exposure.

#### **353.05.02 Catch Basin Frames and Grates**

Catch basin frames and grates shall be according to OPSS 1850.

#### **353.05.03 Joint Materials**

Expansion joint fillers shall be according to OPSS 1308 for types A or B except that granulated cork fillers shall not be accepted.

Hot rubberized asphalt joint sealing compound shall be according to OPSS 1212.

#### **353.05.04 Curing Compound**

Curing compound shall be according to OPSS 1315.

**353.05.05                      Forms**

Forms shall be according to OPSS 919.

**353.05.06                      Steel Reinforcement**

Steel reinforcement shall be according to OPSS 1440.

**353.07                              CONSTRUCTION**

**353.07.01                      General**

The Construction section applies equally to concrete curb and gutter, concrete spillways, and concrete gutter outlets.

**353.07.02                      Foundation and Backfill**

Excavation and embankment construction shall be according to OPSS 206.

Granular base and granular backfill construction shall be according to OPSS 314.

**353.07.03                      Compaction**

Compaction shall be according to OPSS 501.

**353.07.04                      Steel Reinforcement**

Placement of steel reinforcement shall be according to OPSS 905.

**353.07.05                      Formwork**

Formwork shall be according to OPSS 919 and shall be set true to the lines and grades specified in the Contract Documents and in direct contact with the subgrade or granular course.

**353.07.06                      Slipform**

Slipform paving equipment is acceptable for use provided the slipform product meets the specified cross-sectional requirements.

**353.07.07                      Joints**

When concrete curb and gutter is constructed adjacent to concrete pavement, the transverse joint spacing of the curb and gutter shall coincide with that of the concrete pavement. When concrete curb and gutter is constructed adjacent to asphalt pavement, transverse joints shall have a uniform spacing not exceeding 5 m. In addition to the foregoing, joints shall be constructed between the curb structure, including catch basin frames, setbacks, and gutter outlets.

Joints, including those between curb and gutter systems and any abutting sidewalk, catch basin frames, setbacks, gutter outlets, or any structure, shall be formed with 12 mm thick panels of joint filler except as follows:

- a) Contraction joints in extruded curb and gutter and in formed curb and gutter shall be saw cut.

- b) Longitudinal joints, as shown in the Contract Documents, shall be sawn between a curb and gutter system and concrete pavement and shall be according to OPSS 350, when the curb and gutter system is placed adjacent to the concrete pavement. The joint shall be sealed with liquid joint sealer and shall be according to OPSS 350.

Joint filler panels shall be set in a vertical position and, if for transverse joints, shall be set normal to the inside edge of the structure.

Panels shall be precut from a single piece of joint filler to the shape of the curb and gutter cross-section as shown in the Contract Documents, but so as to provide a 6 mm recess on the exposed surfaces. Cutting and tolerances shall be according to OPSS 1308.

Expansion joint material shall be set in place before concrete placement begins and shall be supported by removable forms.

All concrete immediately above the filler material shall be carefully removed to form a 6 mm deep, 12 mm wide recess then finishing both edges of each joint to 5 mm radius with a suitable short edging tool.

Contraction joints shall be formed within a sufficient time of placing of the curb and gutter to prevent uncontrolled cracking. The width of the joint shall be 3 to 5 mm and a depth of one quarter of the thickness of the concrete curb and concrete curb and gutter.

### **353.07.08 Concrete**

#### **353.07.08.01 Placement of Concrete**

Concrete shall not be placed until the base course, on which the concrete is to be placed, and the forms or stringline have been inspected by the Contract Administrator.

Before placing concrete, the subgrade immediately ahead of the concrete placing shall be wetted by means of a uniform spray of water sufficient to wet the subgrade thoroughly without leaving standing water.

Concrete shall be placed and consolidated to meet the requirements of CSA A23.1.

Concrete shall be placed continuously. If placement of concrete is interrupted, recommencement of the placement operation shall be against a vertical formed joint. A 12 mm bituminous fibre joint filler shall be placed at the point of interruption before recommencing placement of concrete. Cold joints shall not be permitted.

The concrete shall be thoroughly consolidated against all formwork and all entrapped air shall be eliminated.

#### **353.07.08.02 Concrete Finishing**

The concrete on the upper surfaces shall be floated to a smooth uniform finish of the required cross-section, free of open texturing, plucked aggregate, and local projections. Only magnesium or aluminum trowels shall be used for hand finishing.

Care shall be taken to avoid over finishing or working more mortar to the surface than is actually required. Back edges shall be rounded by use of a 5 mm radius edging tool. Neat cement shall not be used as a drier to facilitate finishing.

Any honeycombed areas occurring along the formed surfaces shall be filled with mortar composed of one part Portland cement and two parts sand with 12% of entrained air.

**353.07.08.03 Concrete Curing**

Concrete curing shall be according to OPSS 904.

**353.07.08.04 Concrete Tolerances**

The exposed surfaces of the finished concrete shall be such that, when tested with a 3 m long straight edge placed anywhere along the surface parallel to the edge of curb face, there shall be no deviation greater than 3 mm between the bottom of the straight edge and the surface of the concrete nor shall there be any deviation from alignment in excess of 3 mm.

**353.07.09 Cold Weather Concreting**

Protection of concrete shall be according to OPSS 904. The components of the curb and gutter system shall be considered as slabs on the ground.

**353.07.10 Hot Weather Concreting**

Where the air temperature exceeds 28 °C and the concrete temperature exceeds 25 °C, the discharge time shall be reduced to a maximum of one hour after the introduction of mixing water. Concrete shall not be placed in air temperatures exceeding 35 °C.

**353.07.11 Protection of Sidewalk**

Vehicular traffic, including construction equipment, shall be restricted from crossing the sidewalk after the concrete has been placed for a minimum period of three days or until the concrete has attained 20MPa.

**353.07.12 Catch Basin and Maintenance Hole Frames and Grates**

Catch basin and maintenance hole frames and grates which lie within the flow lines of the curb and gutter system shall be installed as part of the construction of the various components making up the curb and gutter system. Frames shall be set to their final elevation according to OPSS 407. The exposed surfaces of the mortar bed shall be left in a smooth condition, free of depressions, and projections. All remaining formwork shall be removed.

**353.07.13 Identification Stamp**

At the request of the Contract Administrator, each end of the work and every 20 m shall be legibly marked with an approved stamp. The mark shall be located in the centre of an exposed face of the curb and gutter systems. The mark shall bear the Contractor's name and the year of construction.

**353.07.14 Field Sampling and Testing of Concrete**

Field sampling and testing of concrete shall be according to OPSS 1350.

**353.07.15 Management of Excess Material**

Management of excess material shall be as specified in the Contract Documents.

**353.09 MEASUREMENT FOR PAYMENT**

**353.09.01 Actual Measurement**

**353.09.01.01 Concrete Curb and Gutter**

Measurement of concrete curb and gutter shall be by length in metres along the flow line of the gutter whether straight or curved, without separation into types. Such measurements shall include the space occupied by setbacks, gutter outlets, and frames with grates.

**353.09.01.02 Concrete Spillways**

Measurement of concrete spillways shall be by length in metres along the flow line from the end of the gutter outlet to the spillway termination.

**353.09.01.03 Concrete Gutter Outlets**

For measurement purposes, a count shall be made of the number of setbacks and gutter outlets installed without separation into types.

**353.09.02 Plan Quantity Measurement**

When measurement is by Plan Quantity, such measurement shall be based on the units shown in the clause under Actual Measurement.

**353.10 BASIS OF PAYMENT**

**353.10.01 Concrete Curb and Gutter - Item  
Concrete Spillways - Item  
Concrete Gutter Outlets - Item**

Payment at the Contract price for the above tender items shall be full compensation for all labour, Equipment, and Material to do the work.

When roadbed granular material is measured in square metres, the Contract price for the above item shall be full compensation for all labour, Equipment, and Material for the material directly below or behind the concrete curb and gutter system.

There shall be no separate payment of concrete used for fillets in bullnoses.

**353.10.02 Hot Mix Asphalt**

Hot mix asphalt designated for constructing bullnose fillets shall be paid for at the Contract price for the appropriate Hot Mix Asphalt tender item.

**353.10.03 Granular**

Granular materials required for the work shall be paid for at the Contract price for the appropriate granular tender item.

**353.10.04 Excavation**

Excavation required to set the various components to the required line and grade shall be considered as part of the work of installing the curb and gutter system. When such excavation overlaps excavation required for any other work under the Contract, then payment shall be made in accordance with the

specification for such other work as though no excavation were required for curb and gutter construction.

**353.10.05 Steel Reinforcement**

Costs for supplying and placing steel reinforcement are deemed to be included in the items for concrete curb and gutter systems.



## **Appendix 353-A, Commentary for OPSS.MUNI 353, November 2021 FOR USE WHILE DESIGNING MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS**

**Note:** This is a non-mandatory Commentary Appendix intended to provide information to a designer, during the design stage of a contract, on the use of the OPS specification in a municipal contract. This appendix does not form part of the standard specification. Actions and considerations discussed in this appendix are for information purposes only and do not supersede an Owner's design decisions and methodology.

### **Designer Action/Considerations**

The designer should specify the following in the Contract Documents:

- Certification such as Municipal Exterior Flatwork Certification, or ACI Flatwork Certification, or approved equivalent. Where ACI Flatwork Certification means the certification issued by the American Concrete Institute, after demonstrating knowledge and the ability to place, consolidate, finish, edge, joint, cure and protect concrete flatwork. And where Municipal Exterior Flatwork Certification means the certification issued by Ready Mixed Concrete Association of Ontario (RMCAO), after demonstrating knowledge to place, consolidate, finish, edge, joint, cure and protect concrete flatwork. (353.04.01)
- Line and grade for curb and gutter systems. (353.07.05)
- Testing frequency. (353.07.12)

The designer should ensure that the General Conditions of Contract and the 100 Series General Specifications are included in the Contract Documents.

### **Related Ontario Provincial Standard Drawings**

OPSD 600.010	Concrete Barrier Curb with Wide Gutter
OPSD 600.020	Concrete Semi-Mountable Curb with Wide Gutter
OPSD 600.030	Concrete Mountable Curb with Wide Gutter
OPSD 600.040	Concrete Barrier Curb with Standard Gutter
OPSD 600.060	Concrete Semi-Mountable Curb with Standard Gutter
OPSD 600.070	Concrete Barrier Curb with Standard Gutter, Two-Stage Construction
OPSD 600.080	Concrete Barrier Curb with Narrow Gutter
OPSD 600.090	Concrete Semi-Mountable Curb with Narrow Gutter
OPSD 600.100	Concrete Mountable Curb with Narrow Gutter
OPSD 600.110	Concrete Barrier Curb
OPSD 604.010	90° Concrete Outlet for Concrete Curb with Gutter
OPSD 605.010	45° Concrete Outlet for Concrete Curb with Gutter
OPSD 605.030	45° Concrete Outlet for Concrete Curb with Gutter at End of Run
OPSD 606.010	600 mm Radius Barrier Bullnose
OPSD 606.020	600 mm Radius Mountable Bullnose
OPSD 606.030	800 mm Radius Mountable Bullnose, Curb with Gutter Twin Inlet
OPSD 607.010	Over 600 mm Radius Mountable Bullnose
OPSD 607.020	Over 600 mm Radius Barrier Bullnose
OPSD 608.010	Method of Termination for Concrete Curb with Gutter