

RIDGID® SeekTech® SR-20 Locator Allows J.C. Edwards Plumbing to Complete Jobs Faster, Safer, More Accurately

J.C. Edwards Plumbing, Inc. is a plumbing contractor located in Graham, North Carolina, that weekly finds itself in situations where it needs to excavate. The company, which often works in conjunction with another family-owned company, L.A. Edwards & Sons Septic Tank Co., handles new construction, remodeling and repair for both residential and commercial applications.

Several months ago, J.C. Edwards, owner of J.C. Edwards Plumbing, purchased a RIDGID® SeekTech® SR-20 utility line locator, along with an ST-305 transmitter. Edwards is now able to locate utilities, confirm excavation markings and reconfirm the marking as the excavation is occurring.

The RIDGID SR-20 line locator uses a combination of multi-directional antennas, a revolutionary mapping display, and state-of-the-art processing to provide more information to effectively and easily locate underground utilities. The SR-20 locator not only traces transmitted frequencies, it also offers advanced passive modes that allow users to search for other metallic lines that might be present.

Prior to owning the RIDGID SR-20 locator, Edwards would find himself in situations where unmarked or incorrectly marked utilities were damaged during excavation. "It's not very comforting to see a breaker fly off a power pole, or the sound and smell of a natural gas line leak in close proximity," said Edwards.

"The RIDGID SR-20 allows us to get our jobs completed faster, which directly corresponds into an increase in our bottom line."

With the addition of the SR-20 locator, Edwards is now able to verify markings and feel confident when he begins excavating. "Using the SR-20 line locator greatly decreases the likelihood of a 'utility strike,' making it safer for the jobsite," Edwards said. "Safety transfers directly into an increase in productivity and efficiency by keeping everything running smoothly on the job."

"The accuracy of the RIDGID SR-20 locator saves time as well," Edwards added. "There are four visual confirmation guides along with audio that help pinpoint the signal and provide the utmost accuracy. On jobsites there is not a lot of time to be dealing with false readings—and time equals money."

The SR-20 locator's unique mapping display and audible tones help guide the user by showing 1) target line direction and changes in direction as they occur, 2) left-right



guidance arrows, 3) signal strength, and 4) a proximity number that increases as the locator gets closer to the target. The depth of the utility is also displayed.

On many of the jobs Edwards does, the price of the job is set in a contract that is established up front with the customer. "We are often under the gun to get jobs done quickly and to keep profits up," Edwards explained. "The RIDGID SR-20 allows us to get our jobs completed faster, which directly corresponds into an increase in our bottom line."

Getting ramped up on how to correctly use the SR-20 utility locator was straightforward for Edwards. "I carefully read the manual and watched the instructional DVD that came with the SR-20 locator," said Edwards. Although he had limited experience using other locating equipment, Edwards found the RIDGID locator to be very user friendly. "RIDGID truly made the SR-20 locator so that all you need to do is turn it on and go!"

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"Somebody with basic knowledge and skills can start locating fairly quickly, as opposed to other locating equipment that requires more in-depth knowledge and practice before you can begin accurately locating," Edwards noticed.

Edwards thoroughly researched locators prior to his purchase of the RIDGID SeekTech SR-20. "I read many reviews of locating equipment and questioned people that were knowledgeable and that I trusted," Edwards explained. "Everything I heard led me back to the RIDGID SR-20 locator for overall performance."



Prior to purchasing the RIDGID locator, Edwards did not have any locating equipment, but relied on markings that were provided by the utility companies or locating contractors. In scenarios on private property, where utility companies will not locate, Edwards would guesstimate where the lines ran and then begin the time-consuming tactic of shoveling by hand. Often, this approach caused hours of inefficiency.

Since obtaining the locator, Edwards has been able to handle additional projects. "I purchased the equipment with the idea to get additional projects," said Edwards. "Now I can do the projects that I used to do faster and more accurately, but I've also added to my capabilities to make my company more competitive at a time when companies need to stay competitive."

With the RIDGID SR-20 locator, Edwards now locates sewer lines, water lines and propane lines.

"In short, the RIDGID SR-20 locator enables us to be safer, more accurate and faster, which directly transfers into more profit for our company," Edwards summarized.



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