

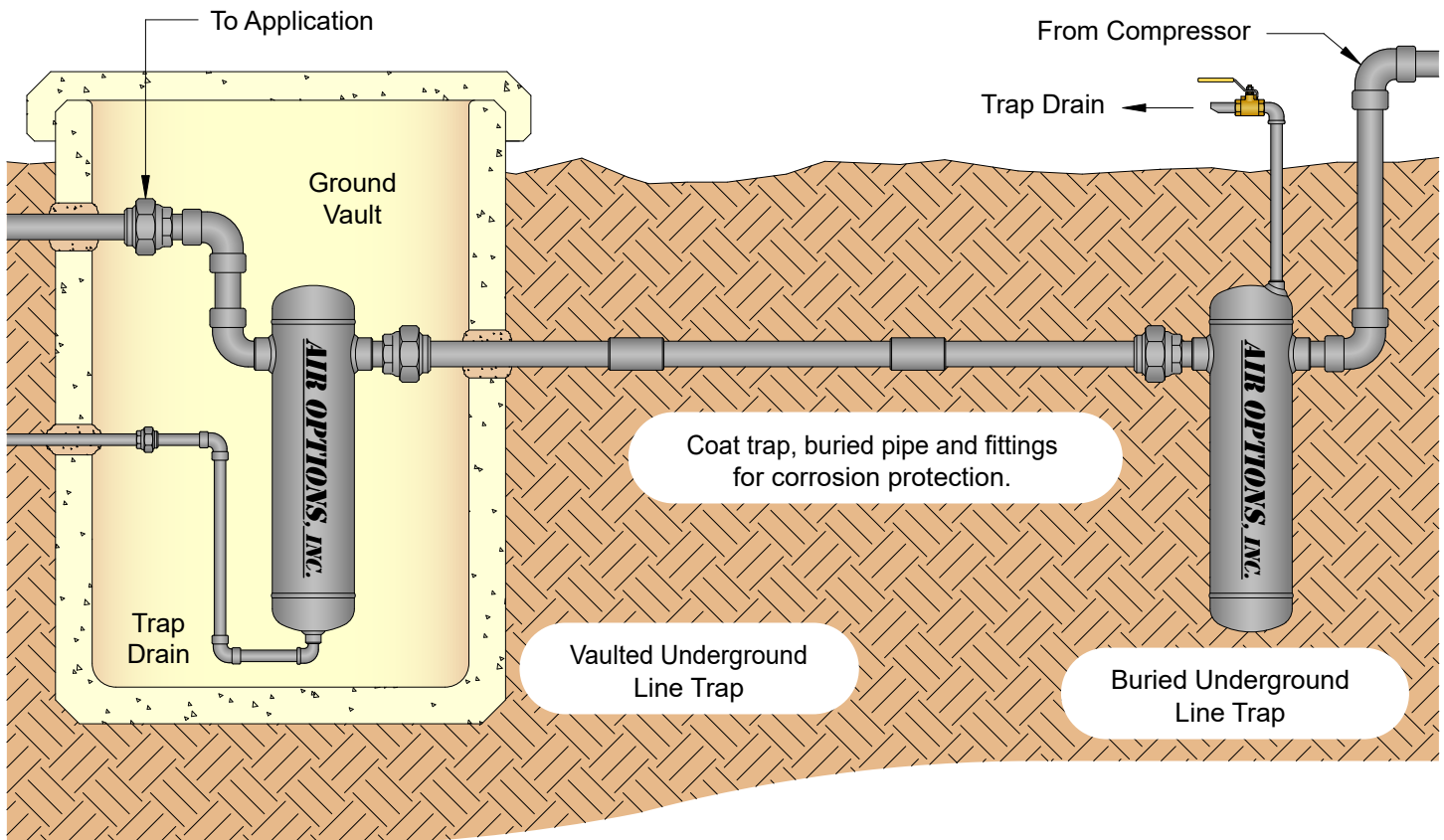
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Buried Compressed Air Piping

by Brian S. Elliott

It is always preferred to run compressed air lines overhead. However, there are situations that demand underground lines be installed. The problem with underground lines is that they form an almost perfect water trap, and once the pipe fills with water, it's almost impossible to drain. The illustration below shows a basic layout for underground compressed air piping. The traps on either end of the run are critical. A one-inch rise per ten feet of run starting at the feed trap is also critical. This allows water to flow freely back into the feed trap so that it may be periodically drained. When sizing the pipe, consider future expansion. Nothing is quite so irritating as ripping up 100 feet of driveway to replace a pipe just because it isn't big enough. On the rare occasions that compressed air piping must be buried, it's a good idea to install a pipe that is twice as large as the requirement calls for. Additionally, all buried pipes and fittings should be coated for corrosion protection.



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