



Task Title: Calculating Offsets in Plumbing

OALCF Cover Sheet – Learner Copy

Learner Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Completed: _____

Successful Completion: Yes ☐ No ☐

Goal Path: Employment ☐ Apprenticeship ☐

Secondary School ☐ Post Secondary ☐ Independence ☐

Task Description: The learner will calculate offsets using multiple step formulas to determine measurements of pipes when installing around obstacles.

Main Competency/Task Group/Level Indicator:

- Find and Use Information/Interpret documents/A2.2
- Understand and Use Numbers/Use measures/C3.3

Materials Required:

- Pen/pencil and paper and/or digital device
- Calculator or digital device with calculator function that includes a square root

Learner Information

Plumbers encounter obstacles when installing pipes and must always calculate offsets to determine where pipes should be located and to ensure the correct elbows are used for fittings. Calculating an offset is one of the math skills needed to pass the journeyman plumber test according to the international plumbing code.

Read “Understanding Offsets in Plumbing”.

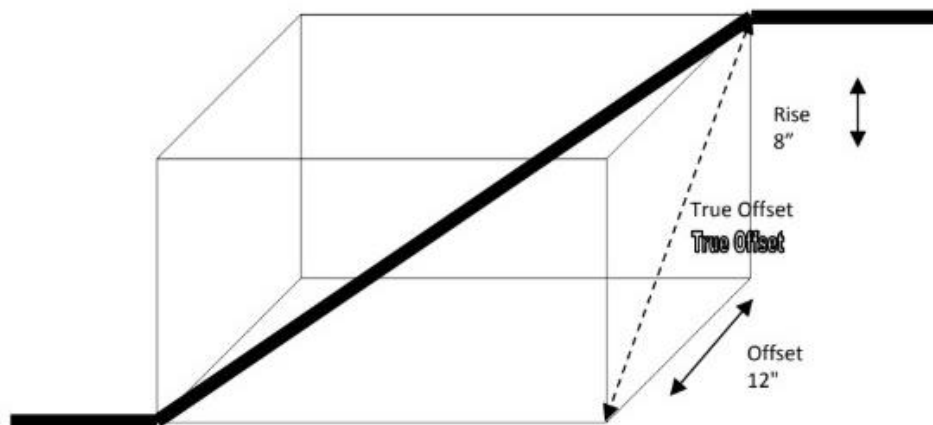
Understanding Offsets in Plumbing

In plumbing, an offset is a way to change the direction of a pipe while maintaining its general alignment. It involves a fitting or combination of fittings and bends, often 45-degree or 90-degree elbows, to shift the pipe's center line without changing its overall direction. An offset permits an abrupt change in the direction of a pipe to avoid an obstruction for example, and continue in the same direction.

When two pipes are parallel to each other they are an offset distance apart. They may both be horizontal or vertical. The distance between the centerlines of the two parallel pipes is called the offset. If two parallel pipes are connected by fittings other than 90 degrees then the centre-to-centre length of the connecting pipe is a diagonal.

A rolling offset refers to the changes in direction that a pipe can make in a piping system.

Calculating the offset example



Step 1 - Calculate the True Offset

Use the Pythagoras Theorem > $\text{Offset}^2 + \text{Rise}^2 = \text{True Offset}^2$

True Offset = Square Root of True Offset

- $12^2 + 8^2 = \text{True Offset}^2$
- $(12'' \times 12'') + (8'' \times 8'') = 144'' + 64'' = 208''$
- True Offset = Square Root of 208'' = 14.42''

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Step 2 - Calculate the Setback and Diagonal

Use the Common Fitting Constants Table below.

Fitting Angle	60° Constant	45° Constant	22.5 or 22 1/2° Constant
Diagonal = true offset x constant	1.155	1.414	2.613
Setback = true offset x constant	0.577	1.000	2.414

Diagonal = True Offset x 45° angle constant

$$= 14.42 \times 1.414 = 20.39$$

20.39" is the diagonal measurement for the rolling offset

Setback = true offset x 60° angle constant

$$\text{Setback} = 14.42 \times 0.577 = 8.32$$

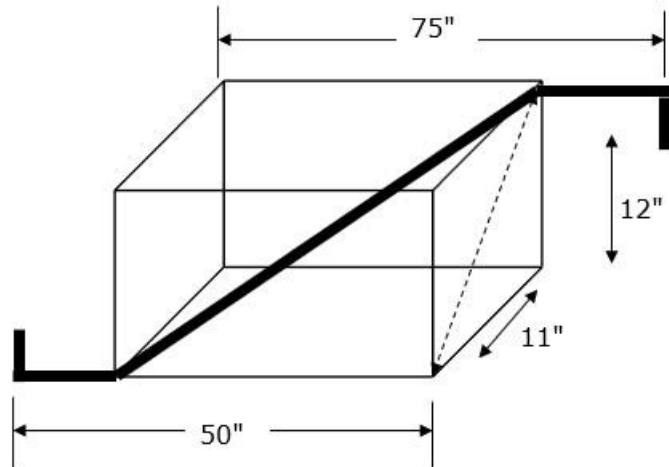
8.32" is the setback measurement for the offset

Work Sheet

Task 1: Calculate the setback and diagonal for the following pipe schematic using a

a) 45° angle

b) $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ angle

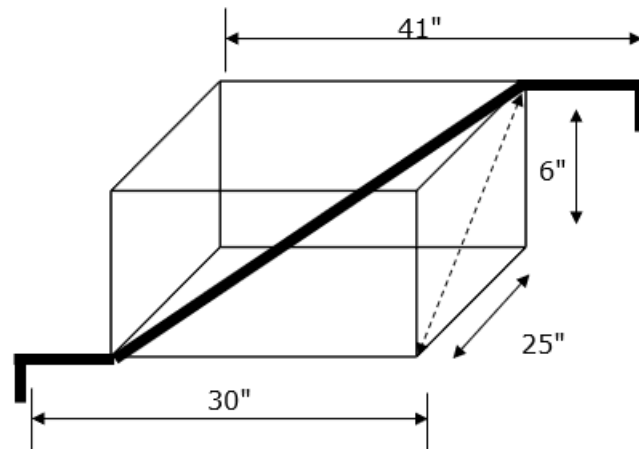


Answer:

Task 2: Calculate the setback and diagonal for the following pipe schematic using a

a) 45° angle

b) $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ angle



Answer: