

## CLEAN OUT BUCKETS

Clean out buckets are essential tools in drilling, specifically designed for the removal of material from drilled shafts. The optimal size for a clean out bucket is 2-3 inches smaller than the diameter of the shaft it is intended for. For instance, a 36-inch shaft would ideally be paired with a 33-34-inch clean out bucket. When used correctly, a clean out bucket can efficiently remove material to a depth of less than 1 inch from the bottom of a drilled shaft.

### **How Clean Out Buckets Work:**

Clean out buckets operate by spinning in a forward direction, which opens the bottom of the bucket to allow material to enter. To close the bucket, operators spin it in reverse while the bucket is positioned at the bottom of the shaft. It is crucial to lift the cleanout bucket slowly from the bottom of the shaft to ensure effective removal of materials. Even for buckets equipped with a suction release mechanism, the initial lift of 3 to 5 feet from the bottom should be performed slowly. This careful approach is recommended in all situations, but particularly when not working within a pipe or a rock socket, where a slow to medium lifting speed is always the best practice. Also remember a cleanout bucket will drill in loose material, always be mindful of your depth during cleanout.

