

# Why are manhole covers round?

Manhole covers are removable metal plates that cover manholes. They have been around at least since ancient Rome, where there were stone sewer grates.

They are round for several different reasons. The round shape is easiest to roll when workers need to maneuver the covers out of the way. Workers don't have to rotate the cover in a certain way to fit it back in the hole. You can also get scientific about manhole covers. A round manhole cannot fall into the circular hole it covers, but any other shape could if it were to fall in diagonally.



## TRIVIA:

Did you know that big companies like Microsoft and Google used to ask potential employees why manhole covers are round?

Why do you think technological companies would ask this during a job interview?

What would your answer be?

Scientists also say that round manhole covers resist compression from the Earth's crust and prevent traffic from dislodging them.

