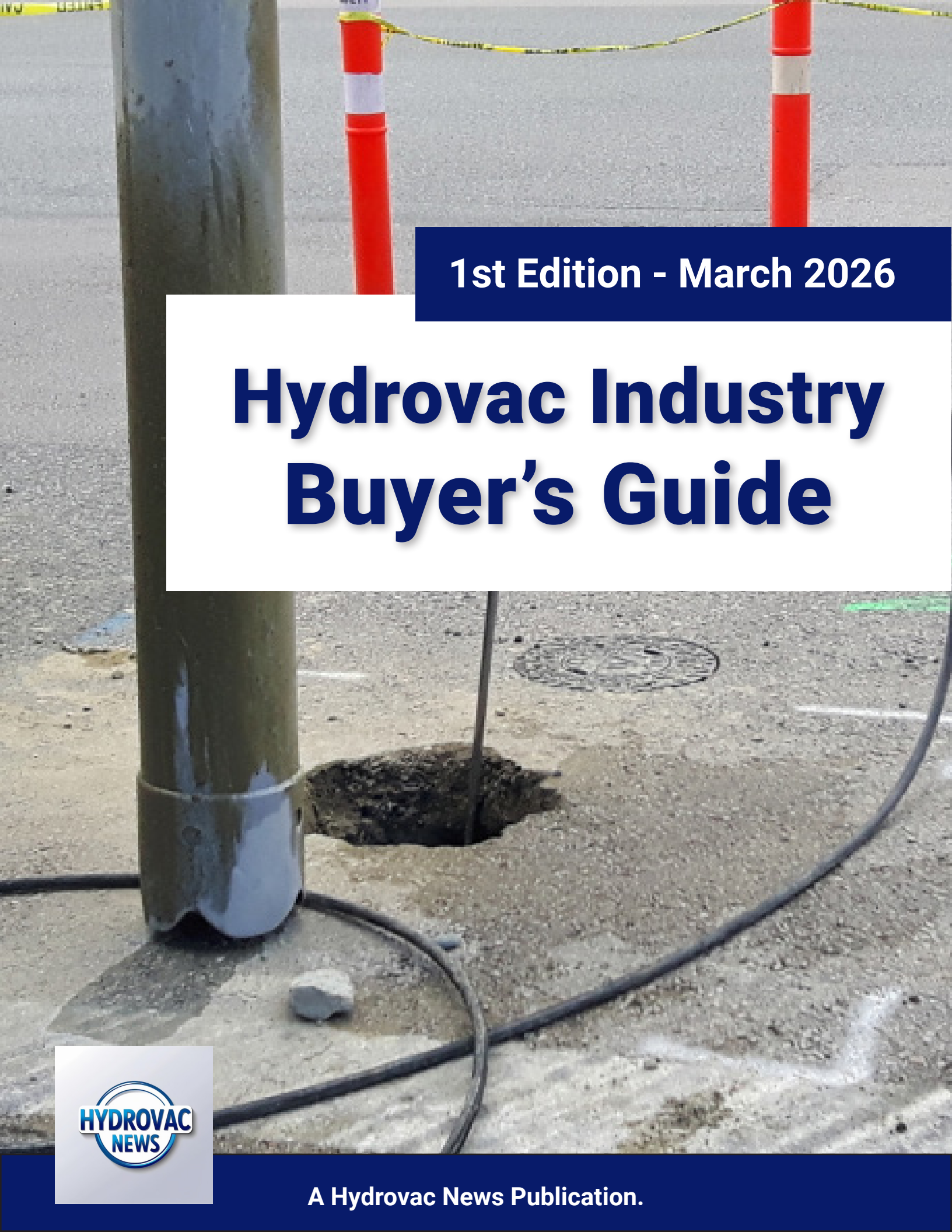




1st Edition - March 2026

Hydrovac Industry Buyer's Guide



A Hydrovac News Publication.

Message From the Founder

Welcome to the first edition of the Hydrovac Industry Buyers Guide!

Hydro Excavation is critical in protecting underground assets and the adoption is continuing to grow. At Hydrovac News we are driven to support and grow the industry through creating a community of resources where people can share, learn, develop and grow, as a person and as a business.

The Buyers Guide is our next step in our mission by creating a monthly publication that is always current and can be utilized by experienced business owners to source a new supplier, or a person newly discovering the industry and wanting to compare their options when buying their first Hydrovac. Thank you for being part of the Hydrovac News community and supporting our mission.



Troy Fimrite - Founder, Hydrovac News

HYDROVAC INDUSTRY BUYER'S GUIDE

Hydrovac News Publication

ISSUE 1 / MARCH / 2026

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The Hydrovac Industry Buyer's Guide is the first-ever monthly publication dedicated exclusively to the hydrovac industry, designed to connect manufacturers, equipment suppliers, service providers, and related businesses with hydrovac contractors and operators nationwide.

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Editorial Policy

Our editorial mission is to serve as the hydrovac industry's most comprehensive and reliable purchasing resource. We only feature products, services and suppliers directly relevant to hydrovac operations, ensuring every page delivers value to working contractors and operators.

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Hydrovac excavation — also referred to as hydro excavation or vacuum excavation — *is a non-destructive digging method that uses pressurized water to break up soil and a powerful vacuum system to extract the resulting slurry into an onboard debris tank.* The process offers a level of precision that conventional mechanical excavation simply cannot match.

Where traditional equipment such as backhoes and trenchers move earth quickly but aggressively, hydrovac excavation is controlled and deliberate. Operators can expose underground utilities, pipelines, and infrastructure with minimal risk of damage — a critical advantage when working near live gas, electrical, telecommunications, or water systems. For this reason, hydro excavation has become the preferred excavation method for utilities, municipalities, and contractors across North America.

The technology performs across a wide range of soil conditions — clay, sandy loam, gravel, and even frozen ground when paired with a heated water system. Work that once required

slow, labor-intensive hand digging for safety reasons can now be completed efficiently and with a measurably lower risk profile.

Common applications include:

- Utility daylighting and potholing
- Slot trenching for pipelines and conduit
- Debris removal in confined or restricted spaces
- Foundation and sign post excavation
- Cold weather digging with heated water systems

For contractors entering the industry, the value proposition is clear: reduced liability exposure, faster project completion, and access to work that other excavation methods cannot safely perform. Hydrovac excavation isn't just a tool — it's a competitive advantage.

DID YOU KNOW?

OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) is the U.S. federal agency that sets and enforces workplace safety and health standards.

<https://www.osha.com>

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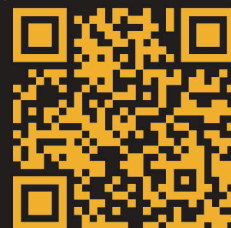
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Nozzle Selection: Matching the Tool to the Task

Nozzle selection is guided by two primary factors: spray pattern and soil type.

- **Pencil jet (0°)** — Delivers a concentrated, high-velocity stream designed for hard-packed soil, dense clay, or frozen ground.
- **Fan jet (15°–30°)** — Distributes water across a wider surface area, making it well-suited for sandy or loosely consolidated soils where broad coverage is more effective than concentrated force.
- **Rotary/spinning nozzles** — Generate a cone-shaped spray pattern through a rotating head mechanism. Particularly effective for larger diameter excavations and faster material break-down in mixed soil conditions.
- **Combination nozzles** — Incorporate both forward and rear-facing jets, breaking up material ahead of the lance while simultaneously providing forward propulsion, commonly used in pipe and bore applications.

Most experienced operators maintain multiple nozzle configurations on hand and select based on observed conditions at each job site.

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SKID, TRUCK OR TRAILER?

There's no one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to how your hydro excavator is mounted — each configuration has a distinct advantage depending on how and where you put it to work.

Truck-mounted units are the industry workhorse. Everything is self-contained, making them fast to mobilize and ideal for contractors who move between multiple job sites daily. The tradeoff is a higher upfront cost and CDL requirements depending on the configuration.

Trailer-mounted units offer flexibility at a lower price point. They can be towed with an existing work truck, which appeals to smaller operations or contractors just entering the hydrovac space. Maneuverability in tight urban environments, however, can be a challenge.

Skid-mounted units are designed to be loaded onto a flatbed or placed at a fixed location. They're popular for industrial and remote site applications where the excavator stays put for extended periods.

Match your mounting choice to how, and where, you work.

Hydrovac Manufacture - Skid Mounted

[Pacific-Tek](#)

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Hydrovac Manufacturer - Trailer Mounted

[Ditch Witch](#)

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Travis & Amy Taylor, Alpha Hydrovac, with their new
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Troy Tardy and the RSP Team
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Thank you to everyone we met at the show! We're looking forward to seeing you at the next one.

- The Hydrovac News Team -

Hose Reels

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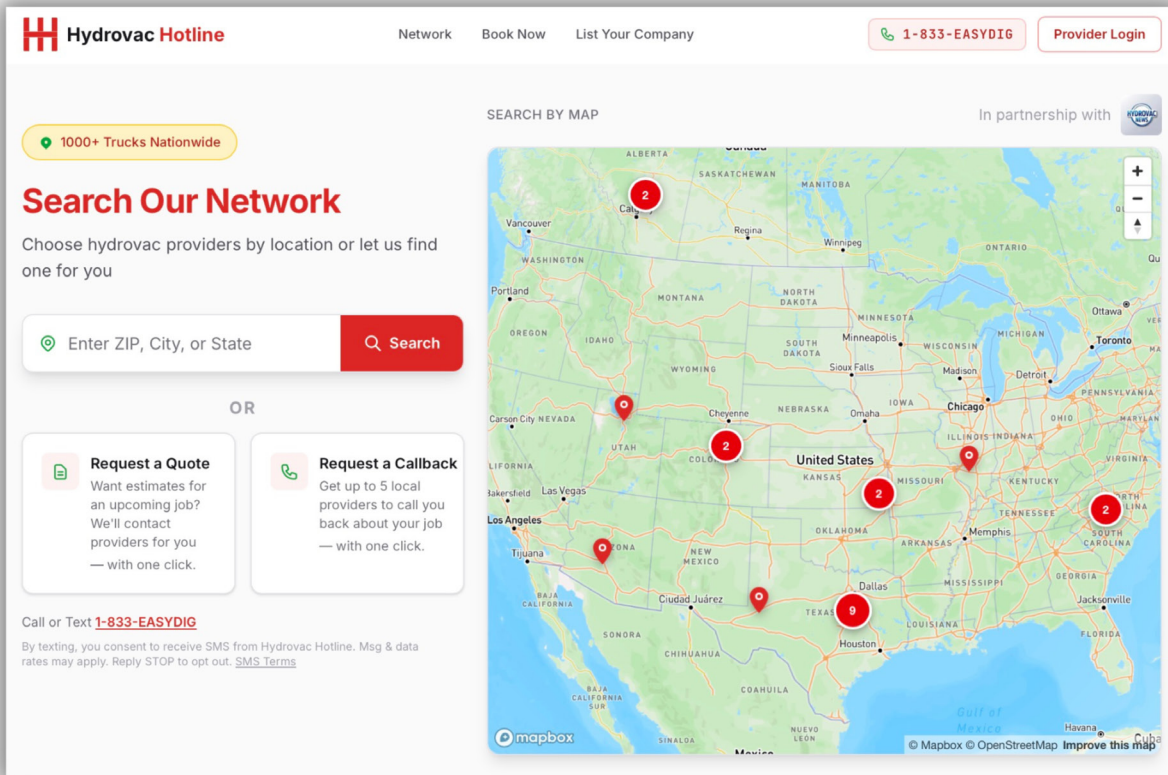
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TECHNOLOGY IN THE HYDROVAC INDUSTRY

Running a hydrovac operation involves far more than the trucks and crews doing the work. Behind every efficient, profitable excavation business is a layer of technology keeping everything connected — from the job site to the office.

Today's hydrovac providers increasingly rely on purpose-built software and digital tools to manage the complexity of their operations. Fleet tracking keeps supervisors informed of truck locations and job progress in real time. Scheduling and dispatch platforms reduce the back-and-forth that eats into productive hours. Digital ticketing and reporting tools eliminate paperwork, speed up invoicing, and create cleaner records for compliance and insurance purposes.

For growing companies, the right technology stack can mean the difference between scaling smoothly and hitting an operational ceiling. When crews are coordinated, jobs are documented, and data flows seamlessly from field to office, owners spend less time putting out fires and more time building their business.

The vendors in this section offer solutions designed specifically for, or well-suited to, the demands of hydrovac operations. Whether you're managing two trucks or eighty, exploring what technology can do for your business can be a worthwhile investment of your time.



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