

## How to Choose the Right Mini Digger for Your Job

You're ready to hire a mini digger, but you land on the hire page and see a list of options: 1-ton, 1.7-ton, 3-ton. What's the difference? Choosing the wrong machine can be costly—either you pay for power you don't need, or you hire a machine that's too small for the job and too weak to get it done.

Don't worry. This simple guide will demystify the specs and help you choose the perfect mini digger for your specific Dublin project.

### Step 1: Assess Your Project's Scale

First, what is the main task you need to accomplish? The job's "scale" is the biggest factor in determining the digger size.

- **Small-Scale (Gardening, Fencing, Small Patios):** For tasks like digging fence post holes, removing small shrubs, or digging a small patio base, a **0.8-ton or 1-ton micro digger** is perfect. They are lightweight, easy to handle, and their primary benefit is access, which we'll cover next.
- **Medium-Scale (Driveways, Foundations, Garden Clearance):** This is the sweet spot for most projects. Digging foundations for a garden wall or small extension, clearing a driveway, or removing tree stumps requires more power. A **1.5-ton to 1.7-ton mini digger** offers the best balance of power, digging depth, and compact size.
- **Large-Scale (Serious Groundworks, Site Clearance):** For larger extensions, new builds, or clearing a significant amount of earth, you'll want more power and reach. A **3-ton mini digger** can dig deeper (often over 2.5 metres) and move more soil with every bucket, speeding up big jobs significantly.

### Step 2: Measure Your Access (The Dublin-Specific Step)

This is the most critical step for any Dublin project. It doesn't matter if you *need* a 3-ton digger if you can't *fit* it onto your site.

Before you do anything else, take a tape measure and find the narrowest point of access to your work area. This could be a side gate, a laneway, or even a doorway.

- **Micro Diggers (1-ton):** These are access specialists. Many have retractable tracks and can slim down to **700mm-900mm** wide, allowing them to pass through a standard garden gate.
- **Mini Diggers (1.7-ton):** These are larger and typically need around **990mm-1300mm** of clearance.

**Rule of Thumb:** Always choose the *biggest* digger that can *comfortably fit* through your narrowest access point.

### Step 3: Consider Dig Depth and Reach

How deep do you need to dig? Check your project plans. Foundations for an extension will need to be much deeper (e.g., 1 metre or more) than a patio base (e.g., 150-200mm).

- A 1-ton digger might have a max dig depth of ~1.7 metres.
- A 1.7-ton digger will be closer to ~2.5 metres.

Also, consider reach. Do you need to dig over a wall or reach the centre of a large flowerbed? A larger machine will have a longer boom, giving you greater reach.

#### Step 4: Do You Need Attachments?

The standard machine is for digging. But what if you have other jobs?

- **Breaking Concrete:** If you need to remove an old concrete path or driveway, you'll need a hydraulic **breaker** attachment.
- **Drilling Posts:** For fencing, a post-hole auger attachment is a massive time-saver.

Make sure you mention these when booking your hire, as they are specialised pieces of kit.

#### A Quick-Check Table

Project Task	Recommended Size	Typical Access Needed
Digging fence posts	0.8 - 1 Ton	700mm+
Removing a tree stump	1.5 - 1.7 Ton	990mm+
Digging extension foundations	1.7 - 3 Ton	990mm+
Garden levelling	1.0 - 1.7 Ton	Varies

#### Still Unsure?

Choosing the right machine saves you time, money, and stress. If you're still unsure, the team at DCM Hire are experts.

Call us today, or browse our fleet of [mini diggers for hire in Dublin](#) to see the full specs. We'll be happy to advise you.