



## Can You Dig It?

Inadvertently cutting an electrical line or severing a gas pipe can be a catastrophic event as well as a great expense to repair the damage. Before you begin any underground or overhead home project - digging a garden, trimming trees, installing a deck or patio, landscaping, or fencing your yard - it's important to locate utilities.

Call individual utility services or utility locator service at least 5 business days before beginning your project to have the following utilities located and marked free of charge:

### Utility Services

- Electrical power (marked in red)
- Cable TV (marked in orange)
- Telecommunications (marked in orange)
- Water (marked in blue)
- Storm sewer(s)(marked in green)
- Natural gas (marked in yellow)

Once marked, don't dig too close to the markers as they are only approximate - be sure to give yourself a margin for error. And remember, careful hand digging with a shovel is always preferred over digging with machinery. Record appropriate phone numbers and keep as a handy reference.

### Also Keep in Mind...

- Use caution when installing antennas or using long-handled equipment or tall ladders around all overhead utility lines.
- Request that the utility company cut the power or cover your overhead electric lines if work must be done in close proximity.
- If your meter boxes are damaged in any way, report it to the proper utility.
- When landscaping:
  - o Keep shrubs and plants at least 10 feet clear of the front and at least three feet from the other sides of any transformers positioned in your yard.
  - o Keep trees that grow higher than 25 feet out from under utility lines.
  - o Keep shrubs and plants at least 6 feet away from utility poles and meters.
  - o If you need to trim any trees around utility lines, call your utility company or a qualified tree trimmer for assistance.
- Never build a swimming pool or other permanent structure under any utility line leading to your house or other structures.

*For additional information:  
National Safety Council, [www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)  
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