



# Always pre-mark your dig area



*Do you have a project that involves digging? If so, be sure to pre-mark your dig area to indicate exactly where your excavation will take place.*

## What is pre-marking? Why is it important?

Pre-marking, also known as white-lining or white-marking, involves outlining the boundaries of your proposed dig area or route. Pre-marks prevent confusion, delays and errors by showing utility-locate personnel exactly where your excavation will take place. Pre-marks are required by law in Massachusetts. They are required in New York if you cannot adequately identify your dig site on your 811 locate request.

## Pre-marking tips

- Outline the boundaries of your proposed dig area or route with white paint, flags and/or stakes before you contact the 811 service.
- When spray painting, use a continuous line, dots or dashes 6 to 12 inches long.
- For trenching, boring or other continuous-type excavations, mark the proposed centerline, and use arrows to show the direction of your excavation.
- Include your company name at reasonable intervals.
- When you contact the 811 center with your locate request, let them know you have pre-marked, and explain where on the property the locator can find your marks.



*Always contact your state 811 center before digging and for the most current requirements.*

**Smell Gas. Act Fast. Be the one to call 911.**

To report emergencies, **call 911** and **National Grid** immediately.  
Always **call 911** if you suspect a gas leak!