



# Color-coded markings: Respecting more than just the mark

When you call in a utility locate request, a rainbow of colors could be used to mark your dig area. Do you know what each color means? Knowing what each color stands for lets you know what's below. Knowing what's below promotes utility safety and damage prevention.

Red	Electric power lines
Pink	Temporary survey markings
White	Proposed excavation
Yellow	Gas, oil or steam
Blue	Potable water
Green	Sewers and drain lines
Orange	Communications lines, cables or conduit
Purple	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines

APWA Uniform Color Code

## Know the color code

As you can see from the American Public Works Association (APWA) chart, each color denotes an underground utility line type. Utility locators use associated colored flags or paint marks on the ground to mark utility locations temporarily so that you can dig a safe distance away from them. For example, locators will use:

- **Red** markings to denote electric lines
- **Yellow** markings to indicate underground gas mains or distribution lines

In addition, **yellow** high-visibility permanent markers indicate our gas transmission pipelines. By using the APWA color code, locators help excavators, as well as property owners, avoid utility contact.

## Respect the marks and dig with care

During your next excavation project (whether large or small, deep or shallow), remember to:

- Use white paint, flags and/or stakes to pre-mark your proposed dig area.
- Make a locate request through your state 811 center before you dig.
- Never ignore your state's required wait time after submitting your request.
- Query the property owner about private utilities, and if any are present or suspected, hire a private locating company to mark lines so you can dig safely.
- Preserve the utility markings, and request a remark if they are missing or disturbed in any way before you dig.
- Notify us immediately if you contact an electric or natural gas line.

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!