

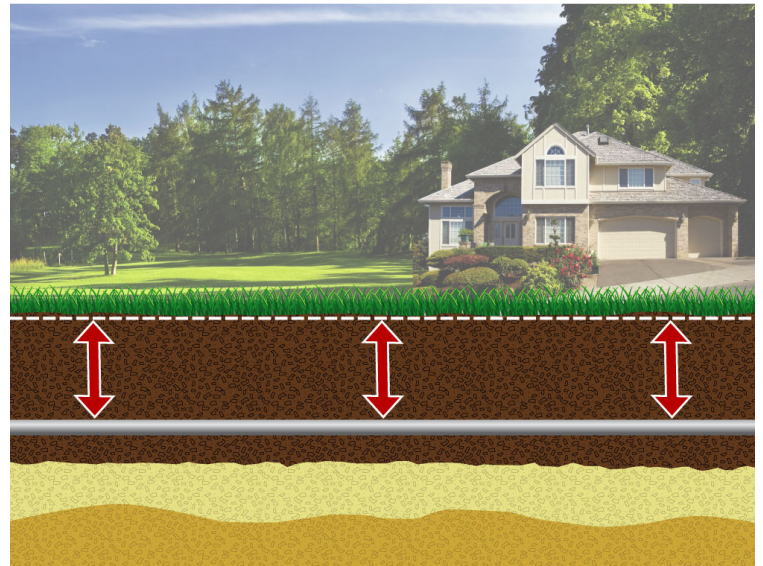
Keep in mind utility depth can change over time



Think you don't need to rely on the 811 service because you already know the location of buried utilities in your dig area or because your excavation project requires only shallow digging? Making the wrong assumptions about utility depth could set you up to cause dangerous and costly utility damage.

Just because you or your company may have successfully located underground utilities in the past does not mean you can accurately predict the location and depth of those same utilities today. Human activities such as landscaping can increase the depth of buried utility lines. Natural events such as wind, rain and landslides can decrease utility depth by shifting and eroding soil. Do not overlook the impact on utility depth of prior excavations and agricultural activities either.

Regardless of what you think you know about the buried lines in your dig area, **always notify 811 to have underground utilities located and marked before you dig.**



Keep in mind not only that utility depth can shift over time but also that 811 locates are "depth blind." After lines have been marked, you must hand dig "potholes" to visually verify the location of all marked utility lines in your dig area.

Regardless of your excavation project type or size, remember:

- Do not let prior locates pre-empt future locates.
- Always call 811 before you dig.
- Wait your state's required time for utility lines to be marked before you dig.
- Practice proper excavation techniques, including hand digging to visually verify marked lines.
- Know what to do if you contact a buried utility.
- Backfill excavated areas properly to support buried utility lines and protect against soil erosion.

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!