

Call 811 Before You Dig

Before you dig in your yard, you should call 811 to ensure there are no buried cables, pipes, etc. Even if the project you're working on appears to be minimal, you should take advantage of this free service to ensure that you don't inadvertently hit something important that's buried!

Things to keep in mind:

- Even if you're digging in a spot that was previously marked, you should call 811. Erosion and root system growth can alter the depth and location of buried cables, or utility companies may have completed work on their lines since the last time you dug.
- If you hire a contractor or landscaper who will dig in your yard, make sure that they (or you) contact 811.
- If you are only planning to dig in a small portion of your yard, you can outline the area in white paint or white flags to identify the area for the utilities.

READY TO START DIGGING?



What is 811?

811 is the national call-before-you-dig phone number. Anyone who plans to dig should call 811 or go to their [state 811 center's website](#) before digging to request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags so that you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.

When do I call 811?

You should call 811 or use your [state 811 center's website](#) a few business days before you begin any digging, including common projects like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes. The specific amount of advance notice that you are required to provide varies by state.

What info do I need before calling 811?

You will need to know the address of where you plan to dig, including the county and nearest cross street, as well as the type of project you're completing and the exact area on the property where you're planning to dig. Whether you call 811 or make your request online, you'll need the same info.

After I call 811, what do I do?

You need to wait a few days to allow utilities to respond to your request and ensure that all utilities have indeed responded to your request before breaking ground. Once all utilities have marked their buried lines, you should dig carefully around any utility marks and consider relocating projects that are close to buried utilities.