



Virginia 811 and Ace Hardware join forces to celebrate National Safe Digging Month in Virginia.

Virginia 811 and Ace Hardware share a passion to serve locally and dedication to safety when creating outdoor spaces.

[March 28, 2022] **Roanoke, Virginia** – Each April - National Safe Digging Month serves as an important reminder to contact Virginia 811 Before You Dig. Whether a homeowner with a shovel or a professional excavator using mechanized equipment, contacting **Virginia 811 Before You Dig** is vital to safety.

For the second year in a row, Virginia Ace Hardware stores and Virginia 811 have announced plans to partner for a special sweepstakes during National Safe Digging Month.

During the month of April, the *Ace Your Outdoor Space Sweepstakes* gives all Virginians an opportunity to enter to win one of four \$1,000 Ace Hardware gift cards. The contest is designed to help Virginians make their outdoor spaces memorable, comfortable, summer ready and safe. And creating an outdoor space more than likely requires digging! It is often a surprise to homeowners that simple projects like landscaping, fencing or even installing a mailbox can be dangerous and disruptive when digging without knowing where underground utility lines such as electric, communications, natural gas, water and sewer lines are located. Knowing where these underground utility lines are before putting a shovel in the dirt helps prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient service outages.

"We are excited to partner with Virginia Ace Hardware stores again this year," says Scott Crawford, President & CEO of Virginia 811. "It's a natural partnership in that we both share a passion to serve locally to help Virginians complete projects safely and

efficiently. The opportunity to partner together to educate homeowners on the importance of contacting 811 before they start their outdoor project is invaluable.”

Contacting Virginia 811 before digging on any property is the law. Virginia 811 is conveniently accessible 24/7 online at VA811.com. Entering an online ticket is quick and free of charge. Virginia 811 can also be reached by dialing 8-1-1. Once a ticket is entered, utility companies are notified and dispatch their locators to the digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines. These markings are generally done with spray paint and specific colors indicate the types of utilities marked. If your dream outdoor space requires digging, then Virginia 811 is the place to start.

Virginia 811 urges everyone to Dig with **CARE**:

- **Contact Virginia 811 Before You Dig:** Always notify Virginia 811 prior to starting your project to have a dig site marked.
- **Allow the Required Time for Markings:** Locators will come out and mark your property to indicate where your underground utilities are located. Wait at least 3 working days before you begin digging so that all utilities can be located and marked.
- **Respect the Marks:** Once the lines are marked, do not destroy them.
- **Excavate Carefully:** Marks made near the dig site indicate the approximate location of the underground utilities. Hand dig within 2 feet of these marked lines. Once the line is exposed, do not use mechanized equipment within 2 feet of the line.

There are a three ways to enter the Virginia 811/ Ace Hardware sweepstakes: 1) visit va811.com/april-sweepstakes/ and complete the online form, 2) visit a participating ACE Hardware store and scan the QR code on the bottom right corner of the counter card which will open contest page, or 3) mail in contact information (name, age, email, address, phone number) to Virginia 811, ACE Sweepstakes, 1830 Blue Hills Circle, Roanoke Virginia 24012.

Please contact Kimberly Swope, Communications & Brand Supervisor for Virginia 811 at kswope@va811.com or call 804.314.8369, with requests for additional information.

About -Virginia 811

Virginia Utility Protection Service, commonly called Virginia 811, is the not-for-profit organization created by Virginia's utilities to protect their underground facilities. Find more information and safe digging practices at VA811.com

