



# Permit Projects Need 811 First

Having public underground utilities marked before your project begins helps prevent costly damage, service outages, and serious injury.

Contacting Virginia 811 is free, easy, and required by law.

Even small projects can damage underground utility lines.

## Submit a Locate Request Before:

- Demolition projects\*
- New construction
- Additions or site development
- Trenching, grading, or excavation
- Utility installation or repair (water, gas, sewer, electric)
- Pools or large water features
- Driveways, slabs, or paving
- **Any project that disturbs the ground**

**Do not begin work until all utilities have responded** and the site is clear. Planning ahead keeps your project safe and on schedule.

**\*Demolition Projects:** Always **verify that all utilities**—gas, water, electric, sewer, and other service lines—**are fully disconnected** before demolition begins. An 811 request does not confirm utilities are disconnected. Failure to verify may delay your project and result in injury, fines, or service outages.



# Dig with CARE

## It's How You Dig Safely

### Contact Virginia 811

Visit **VA811.com** or call **811** at least **three full working days** before you plan to dig to have your public underground utility lines marked. It's **free**, easy, and required by Virginia law.

### Allow Time For Marking

After you contact Virginia 811, utility crews will mark buried public utility lines with paint or flags, usually within three business days. **Don't dig until you receive a Positive Response email** confirming that all utilities have replied and their lines are either marked or not affected.

### Respect the Marks

Respect the utility marks (paint or flags). The marks provided by utility operators are your guide for the duration of your project.

### Excavate Carefully

Virginia law requires that when digging within 24 inches (two feet) on either side of marked utility lines, you must hand dig to protect the underground utility. If your work crosses a line, hand dig within this 24-inch zone. If working alongside a line, hand dig at intervals to ensure it doesn't change direction into your project. **Mechanized equipment is not allowed** within this zone.

## What The Color Markings Mean



Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables



Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials



Communications, Alarm/Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit



Potable Water



Sewer and Drain Lines



Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines



Proposed Excavation Route or Boundary



For all excavation work anywhere in Virginia go to **VA811.com** or call **811** or **1.800.552.7001**