

# Safe Digging

## Homeowners' Checklist

- Plan your project.
- Pre-mark the area in white with white paint, flags or stakes.
- **Call 811 before you dig.**
- Verify that all the utilities have responded by either marking or clearing the area. You can check your tickets status on our website or by calling 811.
- Preserve the line location markings until the job is done, do not wipe the marks out!
- Dig carefully and remember utility lines can be very dangerous.
- Notify facility owners of any damage immediately and stop digging.
- Call for a relocate ticket if you are not done with your digging project within the 15 working days allocated.

## 10 Informational Items Necessary For Your Locate Ticket

- Name & Contact information of excavator—“boots on the ground.”
- Alternate name & contact information.
- Description and purpose of type of work to be done.
- The name of whom the work is being done for.
- Is the area pre-marked in white?
- Accurate physical description of the location and size of excavation site.
- Driving directions especially if a rural area.
- Spotting instructions.
- Access issues or Hazards.
- If available, GPS coordinates that define the parameters or start and end of the excavation.

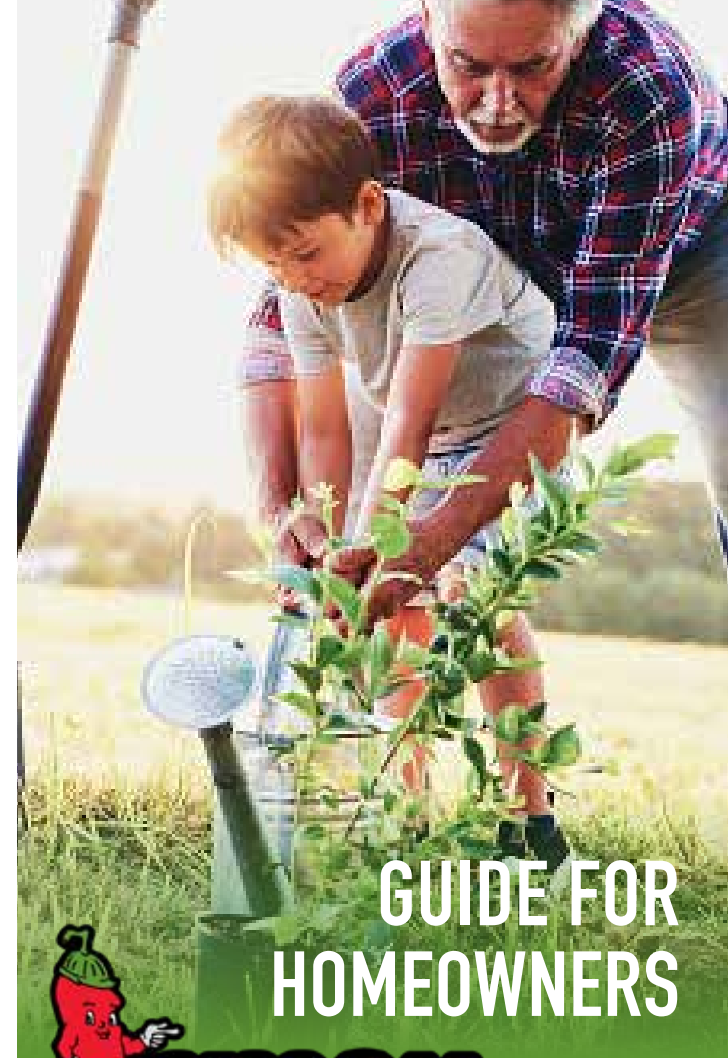
## Helpful Tips

- If your dig area is behind a fence or typically locked gate, please have it open for the locator to access the area.
- If you have pets it is a good idea to relocate them during the 2 working days while utility locators mark their facilities, for both their safety, and the comfort of your pet.
- Note that utilities will only mark their underground facilities up to your meter or point of demarcation. Beyond the meter will not be marked, as the lines are considered privately owned by the homeowner.
- Sanitary sewer line may not be marked. Sewer lines are privately owned by the homeowner and are typically not the responsibility of the utility services.



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**NM811.org**



## GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS



New Mexico 811 is your local call before you dig service. We are a communications hub serving the general public, contractors, and New Mexico utility operators. If you plan to dig on your property, call 811 to have the underground utilities marked and protect yourself and your home from costly damages.

View full details on [www.nm811.org](http://www.nm811.org)

**NM811.org**

## Plan Your Excavation

Calling before you dig is an important step to protect yourself, your property and the underground lines. Digging with hand tools like shovels and pics can cause serious damage, injury, and loss of life or property.

Homeowners who fail to call NM 811 before digging can be subject to fines and penalties from the state.

Before you call you will need to mark the area you will be digging in with white paint, flags, stakes, ribbons or whiskers.

## Call Before You Dig

Calls to the one call center are free and should be made by the person who will do the digging. If you are hiring a contractor or you are renting mechanical tools for digging, having a valid 811 ticket is required by law.

Contacting the one call center is simple:

- **Dial 811 from your phone (1-800-321-2537);**
- **Submit a request online at [www.nm811.org](http://www.nm811.org).**

New Mexico's excavation laws require certain information be provided to the NM811 call center. Please indicate who will do the digging, the type of work to be done, who the work is being done for, the excavation site with details of the location and size, driving instructions, instructions, and any appropriate remarks regarding any access issues or hazards.

After your call, line locators from various utilities will mark their respective underground lines. Once marked, these line markings are valid for 15 working days. Holidays and weekends are not included.

**Keep in mind: Most underground utilities today are made of plastic. Even if you are digging with a shovel, you need to protect yourself, your home, and your community by calling NM 811 before you dig.**



## Verify the utilities have been marked or "cleared"

Utility owners have two working days to mark the location of their underground utilities. Utility owners can either mark the ground where the lines are, or they can "clear" the area. For example, the utility may clear the area, if the line is above ground, or not in the area being excavated.

Digging is not permitted until all of the utilities have responded by either "clearing" the area or marking the lines, and the 2 working days have ended.

To verify that all of the utilities have responded you can call the NM811 center, or go online to verify your tickets information.

## Preserve line location and markings

Preserving the line location marks while you complete your digging project is a crucial part of safe digging. Make sure to avoid planting or placing items on top of underground utilities. Some utilities, such as cable or phone lines may be buried shallow, or may have changed depth since their installation due to erosion or landscaping changes. When digging within 18 inches of a buried utility make sure to dig by hand, and be careful.

## Notify facility owners of any damage









In the event an underground line is damaged, please contact the NM811 call center immediately. If necessary, call 911 first, and then contact NM811 to report the damage.

While contact with an underground line may not seem like a big deal now, it can cause major damage in the future. This includes any: nicks, dents, gouges, cuts, scrapes, or scratches to the coatings of pipe, wires, or cables. Even small nicks or gouges to a line can result in serious injury, or even death.

If you are not sure who owns a pipe or cable you have exposed, you can contact us at NM811 and we can assist you with filing a damage report.

## Call for relocates if project is going to exceed 15 working days.

Locate marks are valid for ten working days. If the project is delayed for any reason and the work will not be completed within the 15 working-day period, you should contact the NM811 call center for a relocate. The utility owners will have two working days to mark relocates.

	Electric		Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
	Gas-Oil-Steam		Sewer
	Communication CATV		Temporary Survey Markings
	Water		Proposed Excavation



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