



## Every Dig Counts

Every project that involves digging needs to be located before ground is broken.

**Safe Digging is Fast, Easy & Free. It's the Law.**

### *Homeowners*

Texas law requires homeowners to contact 811 two-business days (excluding weekends and holidays) before digging, even if you're working in your own backyard. **Homeowners should contact 811 when: Building or repairing a fence, planting a tree, installing a sprinkler system or any chore or maintenance that requires digging. This list is not a comprehensive list**

### *Excavators*

Texas law requires excavators to contact 811 two-business days (excluding weekends and holidays) before excavating.

#### **1. Contact 811**

Dial 811 or make a request online two-business days before any digging project.

#### **2. Wait**

Wait the two-business days for the utility companies to mark the work area.

#### **3. Confirm**

Confirm that all affected utility companies have responded. Responses can be verified by comparing markings with utilities listed on the 811 ticket. Learn what each [colored marking](#) means. [Positive Response for excavators.](#)

#### **4. Respect**

Respect and replace the markings provided by the utility companies. These markings are your guide for the duration of the project.

#### **5. Carefully dig**

It is the responsibility of the person digging to avoid damaging marked lines.

# Homeowner / DIYer

**Texas law requires you (or your contractor) to contact 811 two-business days (excluding weekends and holidays) before you dig, even if you're working in your own backyard.**

811 is a FREE service to you! The service is funded by the utility owners to ensure the lines and the people working and living near them are safe.

Damaged utility lines caused by digging without having underground utility lines marked comes at a cost.

Damaging an underground utility line does more than interrupt utility service; it risks your safety, as well as the safety of your family and your neighbors.

## *Projects that require contacting Texas811 can include:*

**Building or Repairing a Fence**

**Installing or replacing a mailbox**

**Installing a sprinkler system**

**Installing in ground basketball goal**

**Landscaping**

## **Any chore or maintenance that requires digging**

If you are hiring a contractor to do the work for you, **it is the contractor's responsibility to contact 811 two-business days prior to digging.** You may want to make sure your contractor has notified 811 before the work begins by requesting the ticket or notification number.

## *What to Expect*

Here is what you can expect before and after your ticket is processed, along with other things that go beyond contacting 811.

## *Utility Color Code*

Learn what the different colored paint and flags mean.

## *Report Damage*

- Stop digging and contact 811 to process a DigUp as soon as any damage is discovered.
- Damages can include gouges, dents or breaks to coating, cable sheaths, and cathodic protection anodes or wiring.
- Report the type and location of the damage and allow the utility a reasonable amount of time to make necessary repairs.