

Joint Utility Construction in Residential Subdivisions



Joint Utility Construction can save you time and money. In this document you'll find out more about this utility installation solution and get help determining if it's right for your next project.



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The more efficient way to install utilities

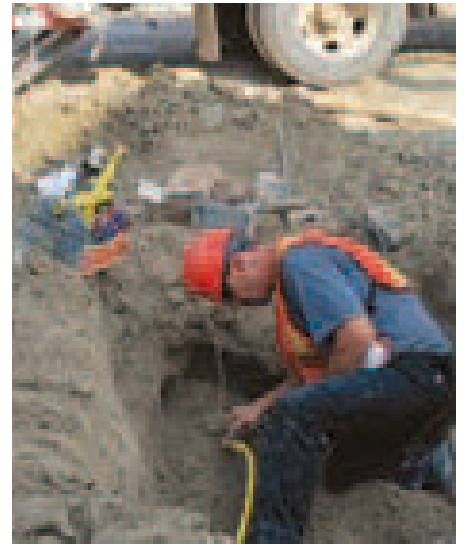
Traditionally during construction, gas lines are laid in one trench and utility wires are laid in an adjacent trench. This results in extra time and effort to schedule and co-ordinate more than one contractor. As well, because the additional contractor has to work beside a previously excavated trench, utility stakeouts are required.

With Joint Utility Construction, all utilities are installed in a common trench. One approved contractor comes to the site, excavates a trench and places the gas lines, and hydro, cable and telephone wires in the same trench – each with utility-approved separation. In Eastern regions, the developer's contractor prepares the

trench before an Enbridge Gas or approved sub-contractor installs the gas mains.

Everything is completed in one phase, which not only reduces the time required for utility installation, it reduces site disturbance because there are no longer multiple trenches. Other trades can get on site earlier and designated streets can be available for basement excavation within days of commencing main line construction.

Note: Services can be installed early in the construction process to accommodate builders who wish to use temporary natural gas construction heaters.



How to determine if your site can use Joint Utility Construction

Enbridge Gas, the electrical consultant or hydro authority, and the developer's civil engineer will work co-operatively at the new subdivision development stage to ensure that the joint utility design is included on construction drawings for subdivision mains and laterals.

The developer of the lots informs the builder if lots are pre-serviced for joint trenching; if in doubt, you should discuss the project's status with the developer.

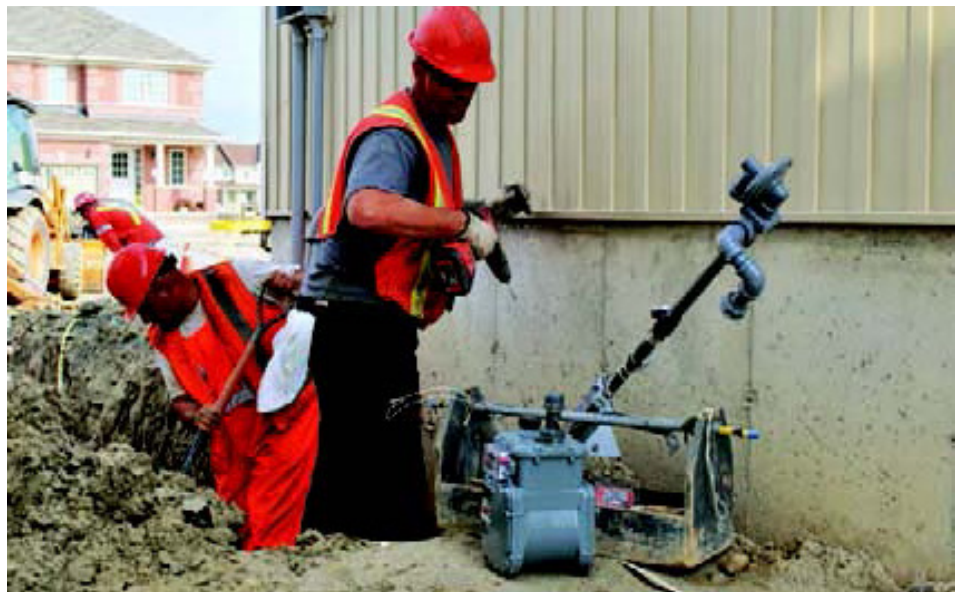
In areas where the construction site is already engineered as a traditional two-trench system, all utilities will continue to be installed in this fashion.

Planning ahead:

1. Call Enbridge Gas to register your subdivision service request. We require the number of services, lot numbers, civic numbers, street names, etc. Discuss with your area Enbridge Gas Customer Connections Representative that all services will be installed in a common trench.

Note: Builder street plan must be registered with the Municipality prior to contacting Enbridge Gas for Joint Utility Construction.

2. Call the builder's electrical contractor to arrange for the installation of services.
3. Make sure your site is properly prepared for servicing.
4. Call Enbridge Gas to request final inspections before homeowner occupancy.



How Joint Utility Construction works

The builder hires a Joint Utility Construction contractor – who must be approved by both gas and hydro utilities. The approved contractor schedules and co-ordinates all site trench work, as well as gas meter installation.

Using one contractor helps to improve the quality of installed services through consistent depth, utility separation and the elimination of any potential risk of damage to existing utilities.

An Enbridge Gas representative meets with the builder and contractor to plan gas line locations and ensure that meter locations are marked and meet all clearance requirements. All gas line installations are inspected by Enbridge Gas to ensure that the trench and utility separation specifications are maintained.