## Safety Checklist – Ontario

# Never assume it's safe to excavate

**RESPECT THE MARKS**

Whether you're doing a landscaping job or a major construction project, hitting an underground utility line can delay your project, make you accountable for costly repairs, and put your crew, company and community at serious risk. Follow these steps to ensure a safe dig.

## Planning your project

### ☐ 1 Review project plans

Review plans and drawings to determine the proposed excavation area and inquire with the property owner about private lines that may not be marked.

### ☐ 2 Prepare the project details for your locate request:

- Your company name.
- Who you're working for (municipality, utility, homeowner, etc.)
- Dig location and project start date.
- Project description.
- How you plan to dig (by hand or machine).
- How deep you plan to dig.

### ☐ 3 Submit a locate request

Visit [OntarioDigAuthority.ca](OntarioDigAuthority.ca) at least five business days before starting excavation. It's the law. Ontario Dig Authority also offers a planning option for excavators who aren't digging within 30 days.

### ☐ 4 Wait for underground utilities to be marked

Locators from each underground infrastructure owner will visit your site and mark the approximate location of natural gas and other buried lines with flags or temporary paint.

### ☐ 5 Prepare an excavation package

This includes the locate ticket number, locate sheet and excavation plans for the site supervisor.

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## Pre-excavation

### ☐ 6 Site walkthrough

Do a walkthrough of the site and adjacent areas to verify that the information provided on the locate sheet matches the flags/paint markings on the ground before starting any work.

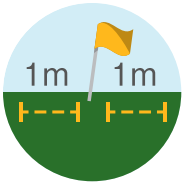
### ☐ 7 Review locates with workers

Review locates, safe excavation guidelines and emergency protocol with anyone working on the site.

### ☐ 8 Contact Enbridge Gas about any inaccuracies

Stop, reassess and work collaboratively with utilities if paint markings do not match the information provided on the locate sheet.

## Safe excavation




### ☐ 9 Hand dig or hydrovac within one metre of a locate (tolerance zone)

If you're digging in the tolerance zone, you must use a shovel or hydrovac to carefully expose the natural gas line before digging with heavy equipment.

### ☐ 10 Shore up appropriately

For deep trenches, place boards or other bracing against the excavation walls to prevent the trench from collapsing and damaging lines.

### ☐ 11 Support the natural gas line

Install a temporary steel or wood support system to prevent the natural gas line from bending or sagging during excavation.

## After completing your project

### ☐ 12 Backfill the area around the natural gas line

Gradually refill the soil around the natural gas line, making sure it's free of rocks, debris, coiled wire or other sharp objects that could damage the utility.

**This is intended as a general guide and may not be inclusive of all companies or projects. Consult your company's safety protocol before excavation.**

**Learn more safe digging tips**
enbridgegas.com/excavatesafely

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