

# Dig Safe

# Know what's below

## RESPECT THE MARKS

If you're planning an outdoor project, call or click to have underground natural gas lines and other utilities located before you start digging. **It's free and it's the law.**

Nearly 7

natural gas lines are damaged every day in Ontario, on average.

75%

of damages to natural gas lines are caused because a homeowner did not request a locate or it was expired.

1 in 3

damages in Ontario occur during landscaping, fencing or foundation work.

## Do you know which lines run below your property?

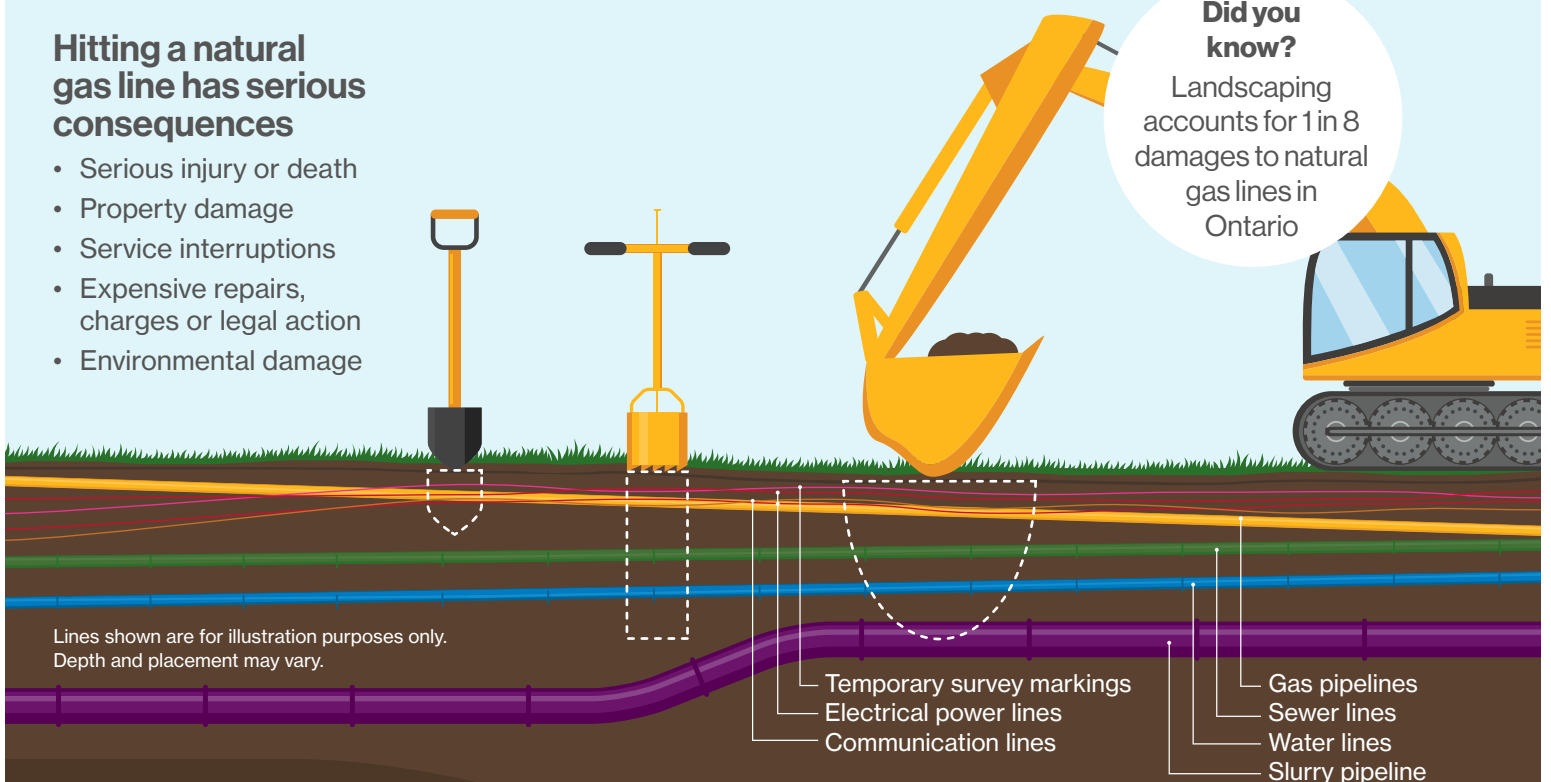
Knowing what and where they are will help you prevent serious injury and damage.

### Hitting a natural gas line has serious consequences

- Serious injury or death
- Property damage
- Service interruptions
- Expensive repairs, charges or legal action
- Environmental damage

### Did you know?

Landscaping accounts for 1 in 8 damages to natural gas lines in Ontario



## Private vs. utility lines

### Buried utility lines

Owned by natural gas, electric and telecommunications companies. Locates are free with a call to Ontario One Call.

### Private lines

Any natural gas or other line installed by you or a contractor, such as a line that runs from your gas meter to a pool heater or barbecue, must be marked by a private locate company.



## Follow these steps to dig safely

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- 1. Plan your project**

Gather all details – how you'll dig, where you'll dig and how deep.
- 2. Submit a locate request**

Visit [OntarioOneCall.ca](https://OntarioOneCall.ca) or call 1-800-400-2255 at least five business days before starting your project. If you're working with a contractor, never assume they have taken care of it. Always confirm to be sure.
- 3. Wait for underground lines to be marked**

Locators from each utility or telecommunications company will come out to mark the location of underground lines on your property.
- 4. Respect the marks**

Remember to leave a safe clearance of one metre on either side of the locates. This is called the "tolerance zone."
- 5. Dig slowly and carefully**

If you must dig within the tolerance zone, use a shovel or a spade to first expose the natural gas line by hand. Only then can you use machinery, but never within one metre of the exposed line.
- 6. Backfill slowly**

Make sure the soil is free of rocks and sharp objects, then gradually place it back in around the natural gas line, pressing it gently as you go.

### Respect the marks and dig safe

Visit [OntarioOneCall.ca](https://OntarioOneCall.ca) or call 1-800-400-2255 to submit your free locate request.