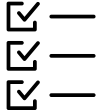




BEFORE YOU DIG

PRE-EXCAVATION CHECKLIST

Use this checklist during your pre-job meeting to verify utility markings, evaluate the work area, and make informed excavation decisions.



1. HAVE ALL UNDERGROUND UTILITIES BEEN MARKED?

- ☐ All expected utility owners have responded to the 811 request.
- ☐ Utility markings are clearly visible throughout the work area.
- ☐ Crew members understand what each utility marking represents.
- ☐ Excavation or bore path verified against marked utilities.



2. HAVE WE EVALUATED THE JOBSITE?

Walk the work area and look for signs of underground infrastructure:

- ☐ Utility pedestals
- ☐ Water meters
- ☐ Valve boxes
- ☐ Fire hydrants
- ☐ Pull boxes & handholes
- ☐ Transformer pads
- ☐ Signs of previous excavation
- ☐ Existing utility markings



3. SHOULD UTILITY MARKS BE VERIFIED?

Additional verification is recommended when working around:

- ☐ Multiple utility crossings
- ☐ Private utilities
- ☐ Congested underground infrastructure
- ☐ Changing site conditions
- ☐ Complex excavation
- ☐ Areas where markings appear inconsistent



4. SHOULD WE POTHOLE OR VACUUM EXCAVATE BEFORE DIGGING?

Visual verification may be appropriate when:

- ☐ Crossing existing utilities or multiple utilities in the same area
- ☐ The excavation or bore path passes near critical infrastructure
- ☐ Utilities cannot be confidently avoided using surface markings alone



5. DOES EVERYONE KNOW WHEN TO STOP WORK?

- ☐ Stop work if something doesn't look right
- ☐ Notify the appropriate personnel
- ☐ Continue only when it is safe to proceed



NEED ADDITIONAL VERIFICATION?

SCAN TO WATCH:
**Verifying Utility Marks
Before Excavation**
(2-Minute Field Demonstration)



↑ SCAN ME ↑

NEED MORE TRAINING?



Utility Locating Videos
*Training, field demonstrations
& tips*



Free Locating Training
*Hands-on classroom & field
training*



Utility Locating Tips
*Field-proven techniques &
resources*

pipehorn.com/support

INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICE

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) Best Practices Guide notes that use of a pre-excavation checklist is recommended by insurers and practiced by responsible excavating contractors. This checklist is designed to support those excavation best practices.