

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



Calling before you dig is a simple step, but one that can make your construction, planting, or home improvement project safer while preventing utility outages that can be inconvenient or even dangerous for your neighbors.

In addition, calling 811 before you dig is the LAW.

You may know **Virginia 811** as Virginia Utility Protection Service (VUPS) or Miss Utility of Virginia. **Virginia 811** is a non-profit organization functioning for the safety and benefit of everyone in our community. While their name has changed over time, their purpose has remained constant: *To keep you, your friends and neighbors safe by helping you avoid buried power, sewer, gas, and water lines.*

Virginia law defines “excavate” or “excavation” as “any operation in which earth, rock, or other material in the ground is moved, removed, or otherwise displaced by means of any tools, equipment, or explosives and includes, without limitation, grading, trenching, digging, ditching, dredging, drilling, augering, tunneling, scraping, cable or pipe plowing and driving, wrecking, razing, rendering, moving, or removing any structure or mass of material. ‘Excavate’ or ‘excavation’ shall not include installation of a sign that consists of metal, plastic, or wooden poles placed in the ground by hand or by foot without the use of tools or equipment.”

Some examples include:

- Landscaping
- Digging holes for fence posts or a mailbox
- Anchoring supports for decks or swings
- Removing tree roots
- Driving landscaping stakes into the ground
- Installing a retaining wall



Remember, even if your project is small, it's always best to call. It's a free service!

Virginia law requires utilities or their contract locators to mark the approximate horizontal location of their underground utilities within 48 hours beginning at 7:00 AM the next working day after you call 811. So, if you plan to do work in your yard on Saturday, you should call 811 no later than the Tuesday preceding that Saturday.

Private utility lines **will not be marked**. The term “*private utility lines*” refers to the portion of an underground utility that is generally located on private property between the meter and the building.

As required by the Utilities Damage Protection Act of the State of Virginia, the County's **Department of Public Works** is responsible for marking all of Charles City County owned and operated water and sanitary sewer facilities. The County receives it's marking requests only through **Virginia 811**.

For important, up to date Utilities Damage Protection Act and Miss Utilities information as well as many online features, please visit www.va811.com.