

# Utility Markings

Utility color codes are used to identify existing underground utilities in construction areas with the intent of protecting them from damage during excavation. This is done with either flags or a special spray paint, neither of which will cause long-term harm to your lawn.



Questions?  
Dial 811 for the  
Virginia Help Desk

When a Locate Request is submitted by a neighbor, utility company, or public agency, utility operators mark underground lines that could be affected by nearby digging. Even if you didn't contact Virginia 811, someone nearby likely did.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities are listed below:

<b>RED</b>	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit, and Lighting Cables
<b>YELLOW</b>	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
<b>ORANGE</b>	Communication Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
<b>BLUE</b>	Potable Water
<b>GREEN</b>	Sewers and Drain Lines
<b>PURPLE</b>	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines
<b>PINK</b>	Temporary Survey Markings
<b>WHITE</b>	Proposed Excavation