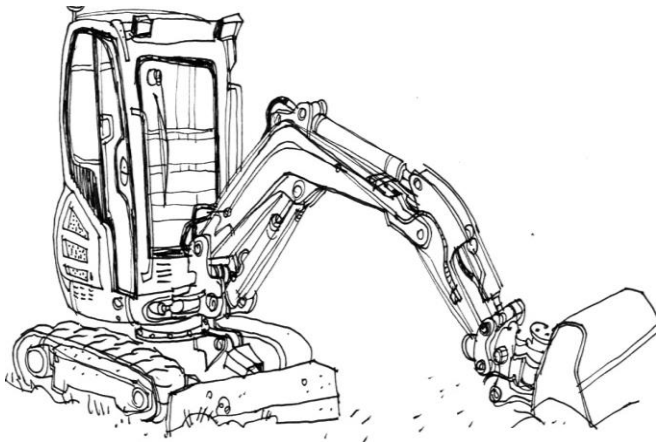


Smart and Safe Digging

Knowing what is in the ground before you dig is Critical and Vital!

State law requires **anyone** digging either with machinery or hand tools to call **811** and have underground utilities located to avoid potential hazards and damage to the buried utilities. Digging anywhere in the state of Washington without calling for a utility locate



is against state law. Failure to call may result in fines, charges for damages, and criminal convictions.

The 811 call and the utility locate is a free service. More information is available at www.Call811.com. The 811 call *ONLY* applies to public utilities including Camano Water Association.

So, whether you are a property owner, homeowner, or contractor, you must call **811** - the "Call Before You Dig" hotline

two business days before digging, or visit the website <http://www.callbeforeyoudig.org/>.

When you call or visit the website, be sure to provide the following information:

- Where specifically you are planning to dig, and
- What type of work you will be doing.

You will also need to outline your proposed dig area with white marking paint before you call; this helps the public utilities, including Camano Water Association (CWA), identify your dig area quickly and accurately.

Do not assume you know where and how deep buried utilities are on your property or lot, or that there are no buried utilities where you or your contractor will be digging or excavating. To locate private or non-public utilities that may be on your property, it is recommended that you should contact a private utility locator service company.

Stay safe! Even after a locate is performed and suspect buried utilities are marked, always exercise care and use caution. The location of the marked buried utility may not be fully accurate and may be a foot or more on either side of the marking, and the utility line depth will still be unknown. Use extreme caution if buried water or gas (propane) lines are near buried electrical power lines.

Be very careful when digging within two feet of a marked buried utility line and only use small hand tools such as a garden trowel to carefully expose the utility line.

Other useful things to know.


Keep in mind that utility installations are not the same for all utilities and the requirements have changed over the years. Also, not all utilities are installed with protective casings and as a result some utilities can be vulnerable to damage by tools as simple as a shovel. Always proceed with caution when digging around utility lines.









During digging, any damage that causes an emergency condition, the person or digger causing the damage shall immediately **call 911** to alert the appropriate local public safety and emergency response agencies and then take appropriate steps to ensure public safety. For damage to CWA water lines please call (360) 387-9136.

Private Utilities: Some underground lines in your work area may not be utility-owned. These are considered private facilities and will NOT be located or marked by public utility companies. Types of private facilities include, but are not limited to; heating systems for pools, electricity for an outbuilding and electrified fences and security lighting, invisible pet fences, fiber optic lines, septic systems, and satellite dish cables. If you think you may have private facilities, contact a private utility locator to identify and locate them.


Here are two helpful guides to Safe Digging and Underground Utilities Lines Marking Colors.

GUIDE TO Safe Digging 

-  **Mark your dig area in white paint.**
-  **Two business days before you dig, call 811. The day you call doesn't count.**
-  **Do not dig until all known utilities are marked.**
-  **Maintain your marks.**
-  **Determine the precise location of the marked utilities by hand digging.**
-  **Use hand tools when digging within 24 inches of either side of the marks.**

UNIFORM COLOR CODE FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITY LINES

White	PROPOSED EXCAVATION
Pink	TEMPORARY SURVEY MARKINGS
Red	ELECTRIC POWER LINES, CABLES, CONDUIT AND LIGHTING CABLES
Yellow	GAS, OIL, STEAM, PETROLEUM OR GASEOUS MATERIALS
Orange	COMMUNICATION, ALARM OR SIGNAL LINES, CABLES OR CONDUIT
Blue	POTABLE WATER
Purple	RECLAIMED WATER, IRRIGATION AND SLURRY LINES
Green	SEWER AND DRAIN LINES


**Know what's below.
 Call 811 before you dig.**
www.DigSafeWA.com

Have questions or need more information? Contact the Camano Water Association at (360) 387-9136 or email us at info@camanowater.com.