CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.
It’s Smart. It’s Free. It’s The Law.

4 Steps to Digging Safely

1. Always call JULIE before you dig at 811 or 800.892.0123.
2. Wait the required amount of time (2 working days).
3. Respect the marks.
4. Dig with care.

You may be surprised by what’s buried in your yard. That’s because today, more electric, gas, water, sewer and telecommunications companies are delivering utility services underground. To avoid personal injury and damage to those lines, state law requires you to call JULIE before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth.

CALL 811
or call 1-800-892-0123

Safe digging now made easier.
What is JULIE?

JULIE, Inc. (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators), is a not-for-profit corporation that provides homeowners and professional excavators with only one place to call for safer digging. And now by simply calling 811, we’ve made it even easier. It’s a simple and FREE call for locating and marking of underground facilities. JULIE serves as a message handling, notification service for underground facility owners, taking information about planned excavations and distributing this information to its membership. It is then the responsibility of each facility owner to mark the location of their underground facilities at the excavation site. JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground facilities.

Why call JULIE?

Calling before you dig is the law. Besides, digging responsibly is the smartest way to dig. The impact of unsafe or careless digging practices is real and often costly – in terms of personal injury and damage to underground utility lines, property and the environment.

When do I call JULIE?

Anyone planning an outdoor project that requires any type of digging in Illinois, regardless of depth or project size, should CALL JULIE BEFORE THEY START DIGGING.

Call Before You Dig:

DECKS & PATIOS  FENCES
TREES OR SHRUBS  MAILBOX POSTS
SWING SETS  ROOM ADDITIONS
SIGNS  GARDENS
FOUNTAINS  SWIMMING POOLS
TENTS

What do the flags mean?

Each utility locator uses a different color paint or flag to mark their buried facilities.

What information do I need when I call?

Safe digging starts when you contact JULIE. According to state law, the person actually doing the digging is required to call JULIE with the locate request information at least 48 hours (two working days, excludes weekends and holidays) in advance of the start of excavation. You must begin your project within 14 days from the time you call and if you want to start your project over the weekend, remember to contact JULIE, Inc. by Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

At the end of your call, the operator will provide you with a ‘dig number’ for your records. Please be prepared to write down this number as proof of your call to JULIE.

In order to help the utility locator properly identify your project area, JULIE recommends that you mark the area where you will be digging with white paint and/or flags.

Please be prepared to provide the following information to the JULIE operator:

- Your name, address, a phone number at which you can be reached and a fax and/or pager number, if available;
- County and city or county and unincorporated area of township;
- Location at which the excavation will take place, which may include but not be limited to, address, cross street (within 1/4 mile), subdivision name, etc.;
- The start date and time of the planned excavation;
- The type and extent (size of excavation area) of the work involved, including if white paint, flags and/or stakes were used to outline the proposed excavation area; and
- Section and quarter section numbers (if available).

What happens after the call?

Within two working days of your call to JULIE, a representative from each member utility company (not a JULIE staff person) will mark the location of their underground facilities with paint and/or flags at the excavation site. Make sure that your property is accessible. The utilities are only required to mark the facilities that they own, not privately installed or owned lines or facilities. Privately owned facilities may include water and sewer services, as well as electric and gas lines to a garage or workshop. Remember, you may not begin your excavation before the dig start time of your ticket, even if all utilities have been located and marked.