



PEACE OF MIND

Safety First

As a homeowner, it's important to prioritize safety and take precautions when it comes to utilities. Here are some tips to help you avoid damaging them or injuring yourself:

Locate and mark your utilities: In the days & weeks before starting any digging or construction, it's crucial to know where your utilities are located. Contact your utility company or local call- 811

Before-you-dig service to request a utility locate. This service is free and they will come to your property and mark the location of your utilities so you can avoid damaging them. Make sure to keep the markings visible and do not continue digging if you uncover any utilities.

Don't forget sprinklers, landscape lighting, cesspools, drywells, abandoned wells and more. Use caution when planting trees: Trees can be a beautiful addition to any property, but they can also pose a risk to your utilities. Make sure to plant trees away from overhead power lines and underground utilities.

As trees grow, their roots can also damage underground pipes and cables. Consider consulting a professional arborist or landscaper to help you choose the right trees and avoid potential hazards.

Exercise caution when conducting DIY projects: If you plan on doing any DIY work, such as installing a fence, deck, or even a mailbox, be sure to avoid damaging your utilities during the process. Always call before you dig and use hand tools to excavate, as power tools can easily damage underground utilities. Additionally, make sure to properly secure any overhead wires as they could be a danger to you or anyone else who comes in contact with them.

Check your tools and equipment: Before starting any project, it's essential to thoroughly inspect your tools and equipment to ensure that they are in good working order and safe to use. Damaged or malfunctioning tools can pose a risk of injury to you and others as well as causing damage to your utilities.

Hire professionals: For any major work that could potentially impact your utilities, it's always best to hire a licensed professional. This includes projects such as landscaping, excavation, and any other work that requires digging. Professionals have the experience and training to safely and effectively work around your utilities while minimizing the risk of damage or injury.

When it comes to safety gear that's good for homeowners, there are a few key items I would recommend. First and foremost, a good set of safety glasses or goggles can help protect your eyes from any flying debris or loose dust while working on indoor or outdoor projects. Additionally, protective gloves can help keep your skin safe from any sharp tools or materials, while a dust mask or respirator can be a great way to prevent the inhalation of any dangerous particles.

Lifting and ladder safety tips, I would recommend always being mindful of your posture and technique when moving heavy objects. You should always lift with your legs, rather than your back, and use proper lifting straps or equipment when necessary. When using a ladder, always make sure it's on a level surface and that it's fully extended before climbing. Additionally, it's important to stay aware of your surroundings and try to avoid any potential hazards, like power lines or sharp tools, while working on your projects. Remember, safety should always come first!