



Private Facilities

Are They On Your Property?

By: Lareina Taing

Private underground facilities, also called customer-owned facilities, are found everywhere. While Chapter 216D requires operators of lines buried in the public right-of-way to register with Gopher State One Call (GSOC), operators of facilities located only on the parcel they serve are exempt from doing so. As a result, privately-owned facilities, like utility lines that serve heaters for hot tubs, gas barbecues, electric security lighting, invisible dog fences, farm taps, buried sprinklers systems and many others, are not marked when contacting GSOC. Let's take a look at some common types of private underground facilities.

Energy-related private facilities include¹:

1. **PROPANE** is a fuel source used to heat residential buildings, swimming pools, grills, fireplaces, and appliances, among others. In agricultural settings, it can be a fuel source for buildings, corn dryers, and other equipment.
2. **NATURAL GAS** can fuel grills, pool heaters, yard lights, or heaters in outbuildings like sheds, garages, and barns. Natural gas may travel through a “master meter” to a residential building. As a general rule, **natural gas facility operators will mark underground gas lines only from the main to the meter**, making the lines on the “other side” of the meter a private facility.
3. **ELECTRICITY** can also be supplied to a “master meter” to power multi-resident properties, such as trailer parks, town homes, or apartment complexes. These lines may connect outbuildings like garages, sheds, and barns to a source of power. Remember that the electric operators usually only mark the power lines **up to the meter**.

Some other types of private facility lines are underground sprinkler systems, data communications cables, fiber optic lines, septic systems, and waste collection lines. In agricultural settings, drain tile and irrigation lines are often buried.

If you are a land-owner, chances are that you have private facilities on your property. Protect yourself by investing some time to determine if there are private utility lines buried in the area of excavation. Look for warning signs such as the utility “master meter” and any former colored marks



Photo Credit: www.wisegeek.org

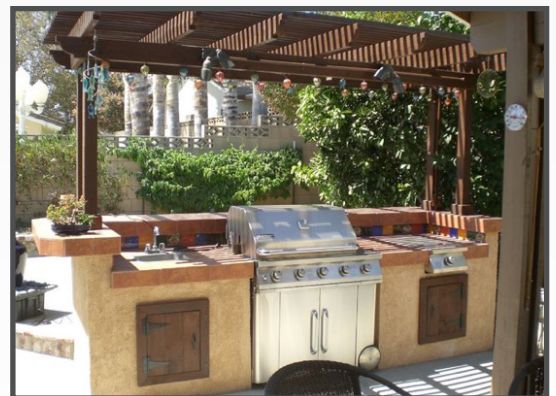


Photo Credit: www.instructables.com

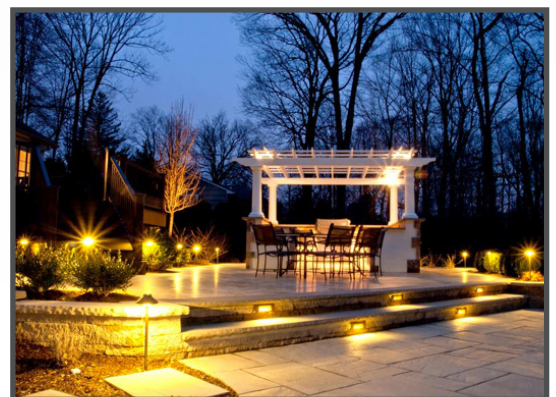


Photo Credit: www.kglandscape.com



Extensive Drainage Tiling

Photo Credit: www.ellingsoncompanies.com

or flags and contact whomever installed the lines to determine if any current records or maps exist of the area. Remember that a good excavator is also a mindful detective and investigator!

*You or the owner of the property may have to contact a private locator to get these lines marked. Click [HERE](#) for a list of private Minnesota locators.

Source¹: GSOC Handbook. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



Customer Support
(651)681-7326

To File a Locate Request:



Twin Cities Metro	651-454-0002
Greater MN Area	800-252-1166
Emergency	866-640-3637
Or you can go online at	www.gopherstateonecall.org



www.facebook.com/gopherstateonecall



www.twitter.com/gopheronecall

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