

The Safe Dig Checklist

Ten checks before you break ground - on a job site or in your own backyard. Work through them in order, tick them off, and keep this sheet where the crew can see it.

- **1. Lodge a Before You Dig Australia request.** It's free. Allow a few working days for plans to come back from every asset owner.
- **2. Read the plans - and treat them as approximate.** Plans show rough alignments, rarely depths. Note every asset owner and their emergency line.
- **3. Walk the site.** Look for pits, valves, markers, meters, kerb stamps and old trench lines. The ground tells you things the plans don't.
- **4. Book a professional locate.** Certified locators trace services with electromagnetic gear and ground-penetrating radar, marking position and depth on the ground (Quality Level B under AS 5488).
- **5. Pothole anything you can't afford to hit.** Near crossings, intersecting mains or fibre runs, have the asset safely exposed by vacuum excavation so you can see it (Quality Level A).
- **6. Treat no depth as safe.** Services turn up 50mm under the surface. Shallow digging, star pickets and fence posts strike services every week.
- **7. Hand-dig or vac near marks.** Keep mechanical buckets out of the tolerance zone around marked services. Expose by hand or by vacuum first.
- **8. Brief the crew before the first bucket.** Marks, depths, no-go zones, and who to call if something goes wrong.
- **9. Keep the marks alive.** If works pause, weather hits or the ground changes, re-locate before you resume. Marks fade; services don't move far, but your certainty does.
- **10. Know the strike drill before you start.** It's on the back of this page. Thirty seconds now beats panic later.

Stop. Then work through this, in order.

01 Make the area safe

Stop work immediately. Keep everyone clear of the service and don't move plant or machinery near it.

02 If anyone is in danger, call 000

Escaping gas, fire, injury or an electrical hazard means Triple Zero first, every time.

03 Notify the asset owner

Call the emergency line for the network you've struck - electricity, gas, water or telco - so they can isolate it. The number is on your Before You Dig plans.

04 Then call GeoRadar

Once the area is safe, we'll get a certified locator to site to find and safely expose what's there, so you can assess the damage and dig on without a second strike.

— BEFORE YOUR NEXT DIG

Quotes and advice are free, and smaller jobs are often done the same day. Cable & pipe location, hydro excavation, drain cleaning and CCTV inspection across Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Emerald.

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General guidance only. Always follow your site's safe work method statements and the asset owner's permit conditions.