

ONE GOAL. ZERO ACCIDENTS.

DRAIN TILE SAFETY

June 2023



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DRAIN TILE DEPTH

WHY DOES IT INCREASE THE
POTENTIAL FOR ACCIDENTS?

Drain tile installation and maintenance is digging and trenching intensive, and **drain tile is often installed 3-5 feet deep** – the same depth as underground utility lines and pipelines.

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PLANNING TIPS

ADVANCED PLANNING IS CRITICAL FOR A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL DRAIN TILE PROJECT.

DO NOT ASSUME LOCATION OR DEPTH OF UNDERGROUND LINES

Do not assume the location or depth of underground lines; only operators can confirm depth.

Pipelines can be located 12" or less below the surface and depth of soil coverage can change over time. Permanent markers identify general, not exact location of underground lines.

Underground lines can be located 10-20' from permanent markers and don't follow a straight line between markers.



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PLANNING TIPS

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CALL 811 OR VISIT JULIE at illinois1call.com

Call 811 or visit **illinois1call.com**. Submit a **planning/design notification** and/or schedule pre-excavation meeting with the pipeline or utility operator through the **joint meet notification** request.

- **Planning/Design Notification**– provides you with engineering contact information for pipeline and utility operators near your project so that you can reach out to request information; members will respond within 10 working days with requested information.
- **Joint Meet Notification**– initiates the process to schedule an information sharing session with pipeline and utility operators near your project. Joint meet requests are limited to one city or township.

Offer to share GIS files or other planning documents and ask operators to show you maps of their assets when you discuss your project with them.



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PLANNING TIPS

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 Drain Tile Safety Coalition

WORK WITH OPERATORS DURING DESIGN PHASE

Work with operators to determine requirements related to installing drain tile along underground lines, such as:

- Minimizing the number of times drain tile crosses underground pipeline or utility lines.
- Drain tile that crosses underground pipelines and utility lines should be near 90 degrees (perpendicular to line) and should clear line by at least 24 inches
- Space long runs of parallel tile and pipeline 25 feet apart
- Use solid tiles and plastic pipe when drain tile crosses underground lines

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INSTALLATION SAFETY TIPS

KEEP SAFETY TOP OF MIND DURING INSTALLATION

 Drain Tile Safety Coalition

MAINTAIN SAFETY AWARENESS DURING INSTALLATION

- Be aware of risks and mitigate hazards
- Maintain eye contact with others during installation and wear proper PPE
- Ensure trenches are inspected daily and implement trench safety protocols
- Keep emergency contact numbers for underground utilities readily available
- Know route to emergency services
- Operators may choose to have a representative onsite during installation

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INSTALLATION SAFETY TIPS

KEEP SAFETY TOP OF MIND
DURING INSTALLATION

NOTIFY OPERATORS, IF NECESSARY

- Even seemingly minor damages to a pipeline can have serious consequences
- If you dent, scrape or hit a line, notify the operator
- If you cause or witness even minor damage to a pipeline or utility line, evacuate the area, call 911 and the pipeline or utility operator immediately

