

Michigan Damage Prevention Board

Recommended Marking Guidelines for Underground Utilities

Uniform Color Code for APWA and CGA (ANSI Z535.1)

WhiteProposed Excavation
PinkTemporary Survey Markings
RedElectric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit, and Lighting Cables
YellowGas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
OrangeCommunication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables, or Conduit
BluePotable Water
PurpleReclaimed Water, Irrigation, and Slurry Lines
GreenSewers and Drain lines

Guidelines for Owner/Operator Facility Field Delineation

Owner/Operator markings of facilities include the use of paint, flags, stakes, whiskers, or a combination to identify the facility(ies) at or near an excavation site.

1. Marks in the appropriate color are approximately 12"-18" long and 1" wide, spaced approximately 4 ft - 50 ft apart.
2. The owner of a facility should be indicated by initials or by name in letters, on flags or by painting, at the beginning and end of the locate. On long locates the facility owner/operation should be indicated every 100 ft.
3. "When known, the total number of lines within the ground will be indicated." The number of lines indicated should be based on the physical lines "that you could place your hands on." Multiple cables twisted together to form a single facility, as in the case of electric lines, would be considered one cable for locate purposes. "If a facility is known to be present but the total number of lines for a facility cannot be determined a corridor marker may be used. The corridor marker should indicate the approximate width of the facility." A marking resembling the letter "H" lying on its side will indicate the corridor marker.
4. "When known for facilities 12" and larger, the size of the line being located will be indicated. Line size will indicate the outside diameter of the pipe or structure. The oversized utility marking should indicate the approximate size of pipe or structure." A mark resembling the

letter “H” lying on its side, bisected by line extending along its length will indicate the oversized utility marking.

5. “Duct structures, whether a single duct or multiple ducts, will be indicated by duct symbol indicating the approximate width of the duct structure.”
6. “Termination points, when known, such as: leads, dead ends and stub outs should be indicated.”
7. “When there is a strong likelihood that marks may be destroyed offsets should be used.”

Common Abbreviations

If the facility owner/operator wants to use abbreviations, the following shall be used:

Facility Identifier			
CH	Chemical	SS	Storm Sewer
E	Electric	SL	Street Lighting
FO	Fiber Optic	STM	Steam
G	Gas	SP	Slurry System
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas	TEL	Telephone
PP	Petroleum Products	TS	Traffic Signal
RR	Railroad Signal	TV	Television
S	Sewer	W	Water
SD	Storm Drain	W	Reclaimed Water “Purple”
Underground Construction Descriptions			
C	Conduit	HH	Hand Hole
CDR	Corridor	MH	Man Hole
D	Distribution Facility	PB	Pull Box
DB	Direct Buried	R	Radius
DE	Dead End	STR	Structure (vaults, junction boxes, inlets, lift stations)
JT	Joint Trench	T	Transmission Facility
HP	High Pressure		
Infrastructure Material			
ABS	Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene	HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
ACP	Asbestos Cement Pipe	MTD	Multiple Tile Duct
CI	Cast Iron	PLA	Plastic (conduit or pipe)
CMC	Cement Mortar Coated	RCB	Reinforced Concrete Box
CML	Cement Mortar Lined	RCP	Reinforced Concrete Pipe
CPP	Corrugated Plastic Pipe	RF	Reinforced Fiberglass
CMP	Corrugated Metal Pipe	SCCP	Steel Cylinder Concrete Pipe
CU	Copper	STL	Steel
CWD	Creosote Wood Duct	VCP	Vitrified Clay Pipe