SoCalGas



Sewer, Plumbing, or Digging Work?
Contact 811 First – IT'S THE LAW.

Did you know natural gas pipelines can be just inches below the surface? In 2025, sewer and plumbing-related work accounted for the highest number of SoCalGas pipeline damages. California law requires excavators to contact **811** at least two business days before digging to have underground pipelines marked. Failure to do so could result in liability for repair costs and penalties. Negligent excavators may be reported to the Underground Safety Board and face penalties of up to $100,000.

Before You Start a Project:

MARK OUT your proposed excavation area in white paint.

CONTACT 811 by submitting a locate request online at **california811.org** or by calling **811** at least two business days before digging, not including the date of notification.

WAIT TO DIG until we either mark our natural gas pipelines or you are advised that the area is clear.

USE ONLY HAND TOOLS at least 24 inches on each side of the field marking(s) to carefully expose the exact locations of the marked utility. If the utility line size is specified, use only hand tools 24 inches plus one-half the specified size on each side of the marking(s).

Emergency work?

An emergency locate ticket is available for qualifying situations. Call **811** or visit **california811.org** to learn more.



Important Safety Steps When Clearing an Exterior Sewer Line Blockage

These steps do not replace contacting 811 before digging.

- Always use a cleanout outside of the structure to auger the sewer line if one is available. Using an exterior cleanout will lessen the chance of natural gas entering a building or structure in the unlikely event that a natural gas pipeline is damaged while clearing the blockage.
- Exercise caution when using a power-driven tool to clear a blockage. Any spark-producing device may cause ignition if natural gas is present.

Scan the QR code or visit **socalgas.com/Contractor811** for more information.

Visite **socalgas.com/RecursosDeSeguridad** para obtener información en español.

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