

SMART LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS FOR YEAR-ROUND SAFETY



MAKE SPACE: SMARTER PLANTING, SAFER HOMES

You can protect your home from power outages, avoid service interruptions, and save money by strategically planning your property's landscaping. By choosing trees and shrubs carefully, and planting them in the right place, you can keep your family safe and help us access and maintain the gas and electric equipment on your property.

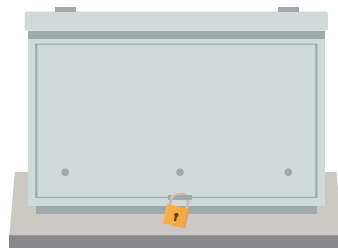
TREE CLEARANCE

There's actually a lot that goes into choosing the right tree and the right site – do you want a shade canopy for seasonal energy savings, or year-round color? How tall will the tree get? How fast will it grow? You'll also need to choose a species and location that keeps the tree away from overhead and underground lines. No tree should be within 25' of power lines, so make sure you know the mature height and spread of a newly planted tree.

Visit us online at [UNITIL.COM/SMART-LANDSCAPING](https://www.unitil.com/smart-landscaping) for a full guide to safe (and beautiful) landscaping.



15'



EQUIPMENT CLEARANCE

Knowing where your electric and gas equipment is on your property is important. Overgrown shrubs or other types of vegetation, if left unchecked, obstruct equipment access when our techs are on scene to do their jobs.

- Padmount Transformers:** Fences, bushes, trees and other vegetation located too close to padmount transformers can slow power restoration, make required maintenance difficult and create safety hazards. In some cases, Unitil crews may need to remove these types of vegetation to gain access to the transformer. To avoid this situation, take time to plan before planting shrubs or installing a fence near your equipment. Plants have to be at least 15 feet from the front side and 5 feet from the other sides of the transformers.
- Gas Meters:** Your outdoor gas meter serves an important role at your home, as it is the point where natural gas from the street enters the building to provide fuel for your home appliances. Because of this vital purpose, it is important to ensure your meter has the space it needs. Overgrown shrubs or other types of vegetation, if left unchecked, obstruct the meter access when our techs are on scene to do their jobs. Gas meters must be readily accessible for routine maintenance and in case of emergency. Overgrown trees and shrubs can also apply pressure to the gas piping and cause leaks or other damage.

We recommend you keep a 3-foot radius around your meter clear of vegetation. If, during a maintenance inspection or by general observation, we find that your meter is obstructed, you may receive notification that additional steps need to be taken in order to clear the area further.



NOTIFY DIG SAFE BEFORE YOU DIG

Spring is finally here, and many of us can't wait to get out there and start breaking new ground! Whether you are dreaming of a whole new garden, finally planting that weeping cherry, or putting in a fence around the yard, always consider what's beneath your feet before you begin! A whole network of utility lines and pipes run underground, delivering water, power, natural gas, and other services to your area. A rupture to any of these pipes could be very costly and potentially dangerous. That's why the law requires you to notify Dig Safe® by visiting DIGSAFE.COM or calling 811 before you start. Here's what you need to know:



- ✓ **By law, anyone planning to excavate is required to call Dig Safe® at 811 at least three working days (72 hours) before any disturbance begins.** Dig Safe® is an underground damage prevention call center system which notifies the applicable utilities (comprised primarily of water, cable, electric, natural gas, and telecommunication companies) of your excavation activities.
- ✓ **Whether you are installing a large tent with long stakes, landscaping, putting in a mailbox or fence, building an addition or an electrician installing ground rods, it's critical to contact Dig Safe® at DIGSAFE.COM or call 811 to avoid property damage, personal injury and possible fines.**
- ✓ **If you do damage underground facilities, including a natural gas pipe or electric line while digging, you endanger not only your safety but the safety of others, as well.** You may also be responsible for the cost of repairing the damaged utility. In addition, if you have retained contractors to work for you, be certain they call Dig Safe® at 811 before beginning any work.

For more information on Dig Safe, visit UNITIL.COM/DIGSAFE811.

UNPLUG AND SAVE



Standby power goes by many names—ghost power, vampire power, and phantom load to name a few—but what is this monster, exactly? It's the electricity consumed by appliances and electronics that are turned off, or in standby mode. If you want to be a real hero, it's time for a little ghost busting! Unplug these sneaky little culprits and you could save an average of \$200 a year.

- ✓ **Remote-Ready Electronics & Appliances:**
Tv's, gaming consoles, stereos, DVD and blue ray players
- ✓ **Non-remote Electronics & Appliances:**
Cordless phones, clocks, WiFi/Cable modems
- ✓ **The Not-So-Obvious Suspects:**
Cell phone chargers, desktop monitors, computers, furnace, printer, coffee maker, electric toothbrushes & shavers

Key Takeaways:

- "Vampire" electronics are responsible for as much as 20 percent of home energy consumption.
- Unplugging devices when they're done charging will not only save energy, but will also extend their lifespan.
- Devices like modems, routers, and cable boxes should be left plugged in, as they often take a while to reboot when you turn them back on.



General Customer Service Inquiries

CALL US: 1-888-301-7700 (SCAN CODE TO CALL NOW)

You can also contact us online. Fill out our online form and we'll respond to your request as soon as possible. Visit us at: UNITIL.COM/CONTACT



Know what's below.
Call 811 before you dig.

