

Before you disturb the ground, ensure you know how to read the locates in your ground disturbance area.

## Do You Know How to Read Locate Marks?



Locates need to be completed according to the **American Public Works Association's (APWA) Colour Code and standards**. The colour code is a universal guide to temporary locate markers.

**White:** Used to mark the limits of the job site.

**Pink:** Used for temporary survey marks.

**Orange:** Used to mark telephone, cable TV, communication, alarm, and signal lines.

**Red:** Used to mark electric power lines, cable conduits, and lighting cables.

**Yellow:** Used to mark gas, oil, petroleum, and gaseous material lines.

**Purple:** Used to mark reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines

**Blue:** Used for potable water.

**Green:** Used to mark sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and drain lines.

In some cases, several lines may be flagged with the **same** colored marker, which can lead to **confusion**. To ensure this doesn't happen, the **locator can develop a site specific color code** that discriminates between each of the lines.

When you use a site-specific system:

- The locator must **identify the colour code** deviations on the documentation and **verbally communicate** them with the ground disturber
- All workers on site need to be **trained** in the modified color-code

Once locate markers are in place, the **buried facility operators** need to **conduct and document an inspection of the area**, retaining the documentation for at least **two years**.

