

# 4 Backfilling Best Practices

Backfilling is the last step in a complex process. Make sure you can end your ground disturbance just as well as it began with these best practices.

## 1 Notify the buried facility operator

Before you backfill, **notify** the buried facility operator to conduct a **backfill inspection**. It ensures liability for future damage is transferred from the ground disturber back to the buried facility operator.



## 2 Double-check backfilling details

The buried facility's **approval documents** should dictate the process, material, and support needed for the backfill, such as:

- Supporting the buried facility
- Bringing in material from elsewhere if the earth is frozen
- Layering the backfill material
- Dealing with compaction



## 3 Prepare for no response

Sometimes, buried facility operators **don't respond** to backfill notifications. In those cases, **you'll still need a backfill inspection** to transfer liability back to the buried facility operator.

**Document all of your contact attempts**, and then get an **independent third-party** to inspect, document, and take dated pictures of the buried facility's condition before backfilling.



## 4 Ensure your inspection meets the requirements

Your backfill inspection should include:

- The **contact details** of the buried facility operator
- Information about the **facility type** and its **contents**
- **Photos of the ground disturbance** attached to the inspection form
- **As-built** drawings
- The **signature** of the buried facility operator or third-party inspector

