

# APWA UNIFORM COLOR CODE

**WHITE** - Proposed Excavation

**PINK** - Temporary Survey Markings

**RED** - Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables

**YELLOW** - Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials

**ORANGE** - Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit

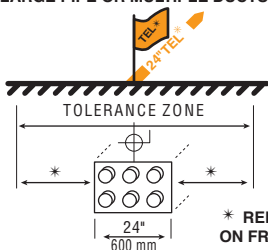
**BLUE** - Potable Water

**PURPLE** - Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines

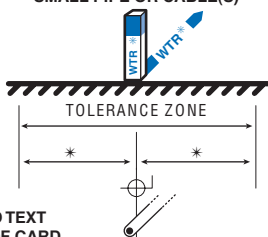
**GREEN** - Sewers and Drain Lines

## TYPICAL MARKING

LARGE PIPE OR MULTIPLE DUCTS



SMALL PIPE OR CABLE(S)



\* REFER TO TEXT  
ON FRONT OF CARD

Customize with your center's  
phone and address information

# **GUIDELINES FOR UNIFORM TEMPORARY MARKING OF UNDERGROUND FACILITIES**

This marking guide provides for universal use and understanding of the temporary marking of subsurface facilities to prevent accidents and damage or service interruption by contractors, excavators, utility companies, municipalities or any others working on or near underground facilities.

## **ONE-CALL SYSTEMS**

The One-Call damage prevention system shall be contacted prior to excavation.

## **PROPOSED EXCAVATION**

Use white marks to show the location, route or boundary of proposed excavation. Surface marks on roadways do not exceed 1.5" by 18" (40 mm by 450 mm). The facility color and facility owner identity may be added to white flags or stakes.

## **USE OF TEMPORARY MARKING**

Use color-coded surface marks (i.e., paint or chalk) to indicate the location or route of active and out-of-service buried lines. To increase visibility, color coded vertical markers (i.e., stakes or flags) should supplement surface marks. Marks and markers indicate the name, initials or logo of the company that owns or operates the line, and width of the facility if it is greater than 2" (50 mm). Marks placed by other than line owner/operator or its agent indicate the identity of the designating firm. Multiple lines in joint trench are marked in tandem. If the surface over the buried line is to be removed, supplementary offset markings are used. Offset markings are on a uniform alignment and clearly indicate the actual facility is a specific distance away.

## **TOLERANCE ZONE**

Any excavation within the tolerance zone is performed with non-powered hand tools or non-invasive method until the marked facility is exposed. The width of the tolerance zone may be specified in law or code. If not, a tolerance zone including the width of the facility plus 18" (450 mm) measured horizontally from each side of the facility is recommended.

## **ADOPT UNIFORM COLOR CODE**

The American Public Works Association encourages public agencies, utilities, contractors, other associations, manufacturers and all others involved in excavation to adopt the APWA Uniform Color Code, using ANSI standard Z535.1 Safety Colors for temporary marking and facility identification.