

# Frequently Asked Questions - LOCATES

## What is a locate?

A locate is either a colored flag or a paint marking placed in the ground that is used to identify where an underground utility line is.

## Why are locates placed in my neighborhood?

Locating crews work to place locates to mark existing utility lines. It is important that we know where existing utilities are so we can avoid them during the construction process. The flag or paint markers ensure that any work done does not negatively affect power, water, stormwater, natural gas, communications or other utility lines.

## What do the colors on the flag or paint markings mean?

Common Ground Alliance, a national organization, has created the resource 811 "Call Before You Dig" which lists the following color identifiers for locates:

- Orange** – Communications line
- Yellow** – Natural gas line
- Red** – Electric line
- Blue** – Water line
- Green** – Wastewater line
- Purple** – Storm drain
- Pink** – Engineering survey mark

## How much notice do I get before locates are placed in my yard?

Public rights of way allow utility representatives to enter for repair, maintenance or other work so there is no notice required. However, Loveland residents will receive notification through the mail and door hangers notifying them that construction is coming to the area in a few weeks. That notification means that locates will start showing up soon. Those that signed up for early interest notifications at [LovelandPulse.com/EarlyInterest](http://LovelandPulse.com/EarlyInterest) will get construction updates emailed at least one week before construction.

## Can I remove the locate flags?

Please leave the locate flags in place because they're protecting other utility lines from harm. Crews will remove flags when they are done with construction.

## How long will the flags be in place?

Locate flags may be in place for up to 30 days before needing to be re-authorized. Our teams will remove them when the project has been completed.

## How do I know if a locate flag has been in place for too long?

The Utility Notification Center of Colorado (1-800-922-1987) can tell you how long a flag has been in place and if it's safe to remove.

## Will the locate marker paint wash off?

Yes, the paint is water soluble and will wash off in time.

## Who should I contact about locate flags or markers?

For additional information or concerns about locates, please contact Colorado 811 at [Colorado811.org](http://Colorado811.org).



CONSTRUCTION HOTLINE: 970-962-2011