

Dig No Damage

Breaking ground and excavating is one of the most high risk activities you will carry out.

The Dig No Damage campaign sets out the approach to take when excavating in order to reduce the risk of damage. Following this guidance will ensure that you do not repeat the mistakes that collectively, we have made before. It is the best chance to protect everyone affected by our works, by ensuring that the right control measures are in place. It is everyone's responsibility to continually assess their workplace and react accordingly.

Turn over for a summary of Bristol Water's guidance for safe digging.

The complete documents can be downloaded at bristolwater.co.uk/dig-no-damage



A guide to avoiding damage when excavating



bristolwater.co.uk/dig-no-damage



Before



On Site Risk Assessment

- Complete a suitable and sufficient On Site Risk Assessment.
- Identify and address the significant hazards of the place and the type of work to be done.
- Provide photographic evidence to back up your On Site Risk Assessment and to show best practice.

Plans

- No plans, no dig!
- Utility plans must be CACTUS:
C: clear and easy to understand
A: cover the correct area
C: in colour
T: timely and in date
U: understood
S: appropriate scale (ideally 1:500)

Paint, evidence, Cat & Genny

- Thoroughly investigate the area for any evidence of underground and overhead services.
- CAT and Genny (C&G) survey.
- Provide photographic evidence.
- Eliminate unknowns
- If the C&G detects a signal, mark up the location on the surface.



Trees

- PROHIBITED ZONE – 1m from trunk.
- PRECAUTIONARY ZONE – 4 x tree circumference.
- Any work near trees with a tree preservation order or in a conservation area must notified to the local authority.
- Protect tree roots in the same way that you would protect other exposed services.
- Do not cut any roots unless absolutely necessary and never if it's bigger than 25mm.

During

Breaking ground

- Establish a safe place and appropriate tool to break ground.
- Do not break ground within the 150mm encroachment zone.

Excavation

- Do not dig blind.
- Confirm all service locations by hand excavation.
- Ease spades and shovels into the ground with careful foot pressure in parallel to the service.
- Don't dig down onto a service.
- An excavation can need support at any depth.
- If the surcharge is moveable (eg. digger or spoil), make sure it is a suitable distance from the excavation.

- Re-scan with the C&G.
- Do not attempt to break out concrete without agreement from your Supervisor.

Plant and equipment

- Make sure that Plant and Equipment Operators are competent and authorised.
- All tools must be electrically insulated.
- Ensure that kit is fit for purpose.
- Always wear task-specific PPE as required by Risk Assessment.
- Do not use an excavator within 500mm of a known utility.
- Make sure you have a banksman in place

Exposed services

- When a service has been located, expose it along the total length of the work area.
- Exposed services must be supported.
- Prove the identity of exposed services before drilling, tapping or squeezing them.

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