

Ticking Time Bombs

The cross boring of sanitary sewer lines or storm sewer lines can result in unintended blockages that may cause back-ups, requiring either plumbers, municipal or county DPW employees to clear these blockages.

Typically, mechanical rotary knife tools or root cutters or vacuums are used to clear a blocked line. This process has the ability to damage a natural gas, electrical or communications lines that have been unknowingly inserted through the sewer line or storm drain...



Locate Request Numbers

Delaware: 800-282-8555

Washington, DC: 202-265-7177

MD (Western Shore): 800-257-7777

MD (Eastern Shore): 800-441-8355

Monday – Friday 7AM to 5PM

For EMERGENCY locate requests, call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority

Maryland's 811 Enforcement Agency



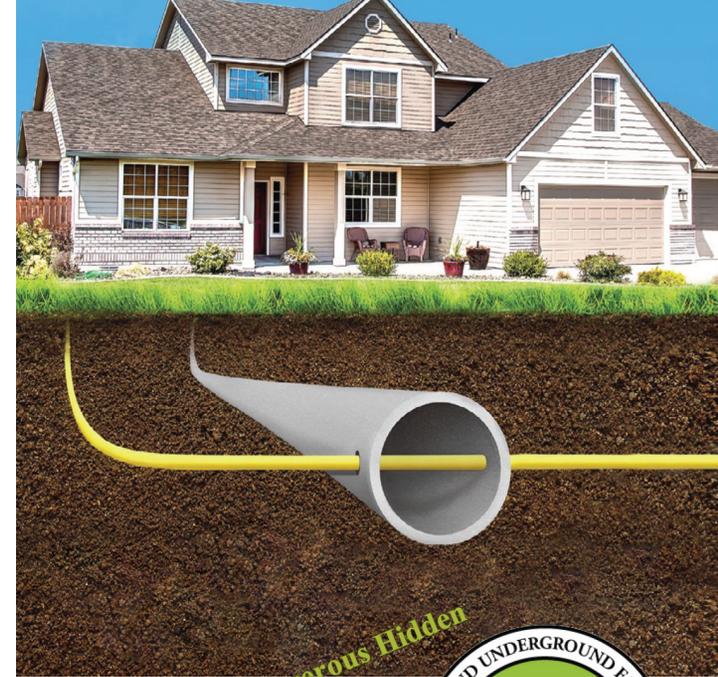
Cross Bore Safety Facts

Homeowners, Public Works Employees & Plumbers

**7223 Parkway Drive, Suite 100
Hanover, Maryland 21078**

410-782-2102

www.mddpa.org

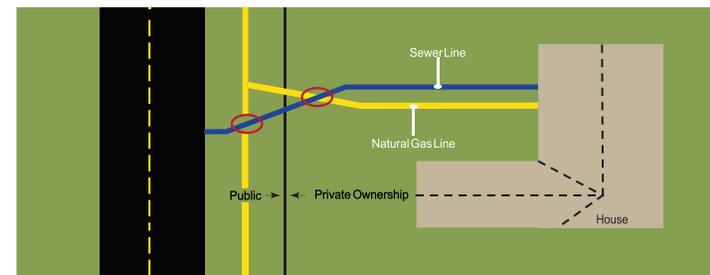


Crossbores: A Dangerous Hidden Utility Damage



Cross boring occurs when an existing underground facility is intersected by another. Cross bores present a persistent concern for the damage prevention industry and facility owners in the public and private sectors. Given the serious and potentially catastrophic nature of these anomalies, it is imperative that best practices are developed to correct and avoid these ticking time bombs...

Contact the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority for more information about the dangers of legacy Crossbores...
www.mddpa.org

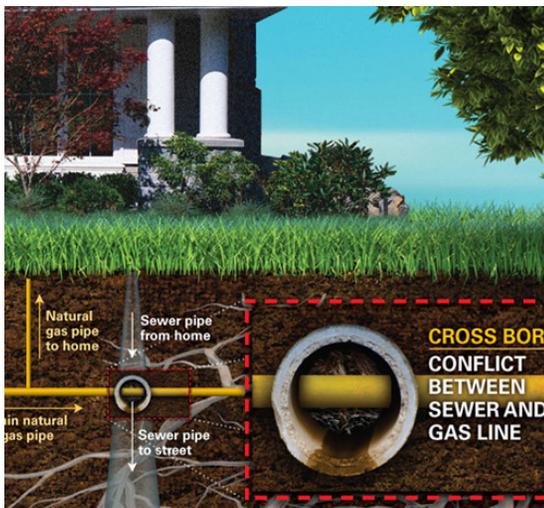


Dangerous to Homeowners

Trenchless technologies such as directional drilling are increasingly used in urban and suburban areas to install new underground utility lines. These types of facility installation are cost effective, quick and the least disruptive method currently available to upgrade or install new underground lines.

Any damage to the coating of the gas pipe can allow the degradation of the line, which will eventually lead to a dangerous leak. The gas will then migrate through the sewer into the dwelling, creating a dangerously volatile scenario.

If you suspect a damage has occurred, you can call your gas/electric provider they will come and investigate. If you smell gas in your home or observe a bubbling toilet...leave your home immediately, then call 911!

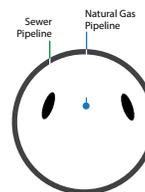


info@mddpa.org
410-782-2102

Dangerous to Plumbers

When a sewer back-up occurs in a home or commercial building, a plumber is often called to mitigate the problem. These situations can become public health emergencies due to back flow into the structure. Unwittingly, a plumber may send a mechanical cutter from the sewer clean-out to remove the suspected obstruction only to compromise or break a gas main or electric conduit, which was installed during a trenchless excavation.

Best practices suggest that, prior to attempting the removal of sewer obstructions, a plumber or contractor should call Miss Utility to determine if any gas or electric lines are in close proximity to the building. Gas and electric companies are also willing to investigate, if you suspect a potential cross bore situation.



Dangerous to Public Works Employees

Why is it imperative that all sewer lines, especially sewer laterals and storm sewer lines be locatable?

In some instances, cross bores may be created when underground facilities are unknowingly installed through unmarked sewer lines and storm water systems, because they were not locatable prior to the trenchless installation of gas or electric facilities.

These cross bores may lie dormant for months, years or in some cases decades, with their exact locations unknown to municipality or country DPW departments. Prior to the routine maintenance of these public amenity's, it is recommended that a request for locating be filed with Miss Utility.

One call to 811 can protect public infrastructure and the safety of men and women who maintain them.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.