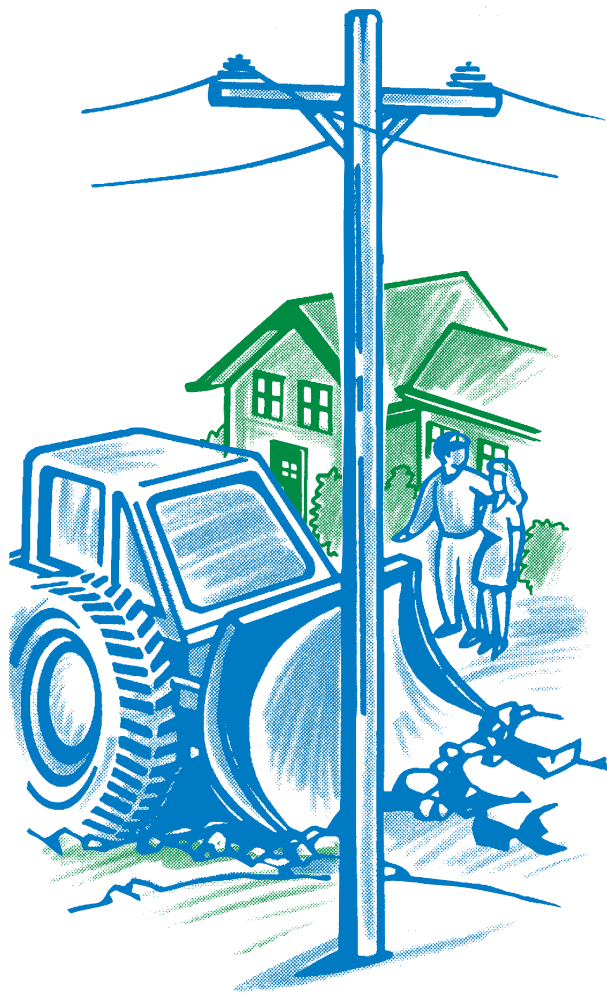


Before You Build

How to stay away from power lines



Consumers Energy

Count on Us

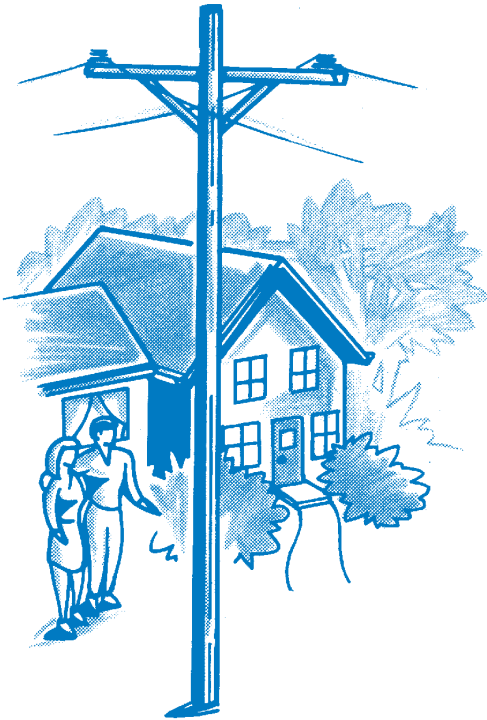
*One Energy Plaza
Jackson, MI 49201-2276*

Visit us on the Internet
<http://www.consumersenergy.com>

Building Safely

When you're building or expanding a structure, it's important to think about how close it might be to power lines. This is for your safety, but it's also a requirement of the state electrical code which we all must follow.

This brochure can help you build safely and avoid a potentially expensive mistake. If you build too close to our power lines, we may have to charge you to move our lines. If you or your contractor have questions, call us toll free at **1-800-477-5050**.



Contents

<i>Personal Safety</i>	2
<i>Line Clearance and Structures</i>	3
<i>Homes, Garages and Other Structures</i>	4
<i>Swimming Pools</i>	5
<i>Grain Bins</i>	6
<i>Equipment, Ladders and Materials</i>	8
<i>Avoid a Headache; Call Us With Questions</i>	9

Personal Safety

Your personal safety, and the safety of anyone working on your property, is most important. That's why the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act requires that individuals keep a safe distance from overhead power lines. The minimum safe distance is the total length of the "conductive object" you are using, PLUS 10 feet.

A conductive object is anything — a long-handled tool, vehicle or other equipment — that could conduct electricity if it comes into contact with a power line. Overhead power lines do not have an insulated covering; that means, any conductive object that makes contact will become energized and dangerous.

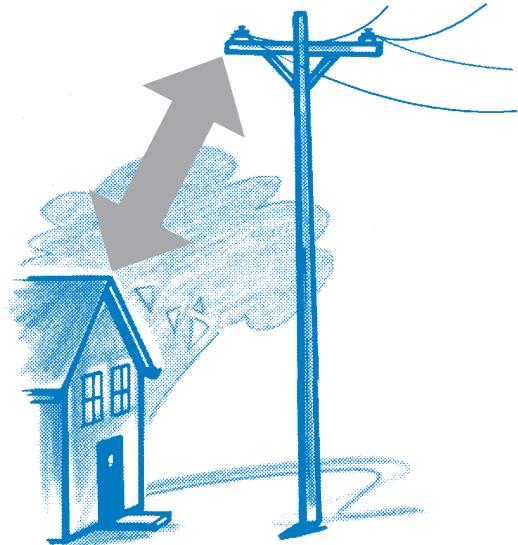
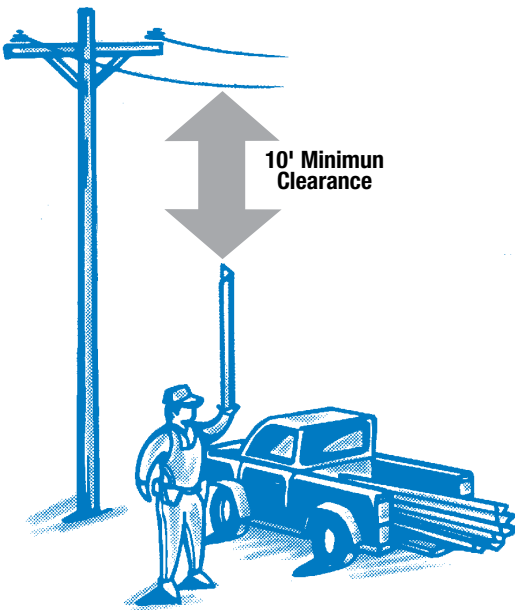
For example, a person working with a 20-foot section of metal, such as an eavestrough, antenna or irrigation pipe, must stay at least 30 feet from an overhead power line.

Line Clearance and Structures

Line clearance is a term that refers to the distance between your structure or equipment and our power lines. It is specified in the National Electrical Safety Code, a set of rules adopted by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Under the National Electrical Safety Code, line clearances must be maintained in all directions. This means you must create and keep a buffer between your structure and our power line, whether the line is above or to the side of your project.

Buildings, structures and equipment that can conflict with line clearance requirements include construction equipment, garages, grain bins, homes, signs/billboards and swimming pools.



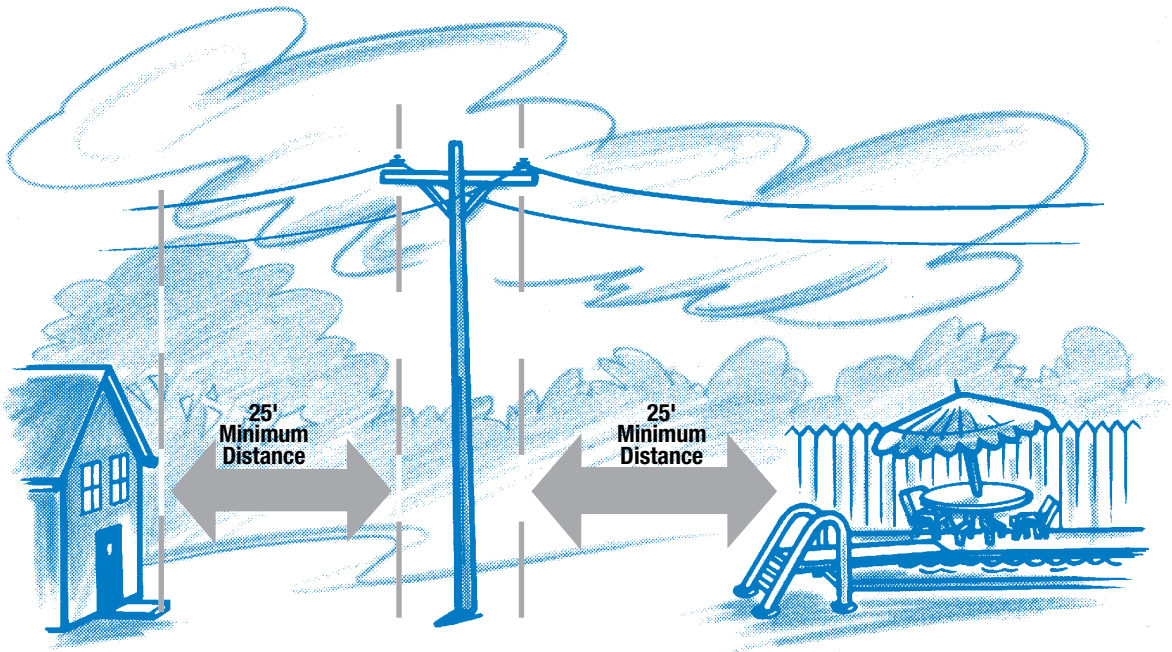
Homes, Garages and Other Structures

The structure you are building should be at least 25 feet from the closest part of the distribution line. This distance is measured horizontally from directly below the nearest conductor to the closest point on the structure. Normally, this distance allows individuals to stay at least 10 feet from power lines while working on a structure. If your project is closer than 25 feet, call us for a free evaluation.

Swimming Pools

Locate swimming pools at least 25 feet from power lines. When this is not practical, call us.

Everyone using long-handled pool skimmers must maintain a safe distance from overhead power lines — the length of the pool skimmer handle, PLUS 10 feet.



Grain Bins

If you're a farmer, you should know the distance between a power line and a grain bin is important.

Grain bins filled with permanently installed elevator systems must be at least 25 feet from a power line. If you have any questions, please call us.

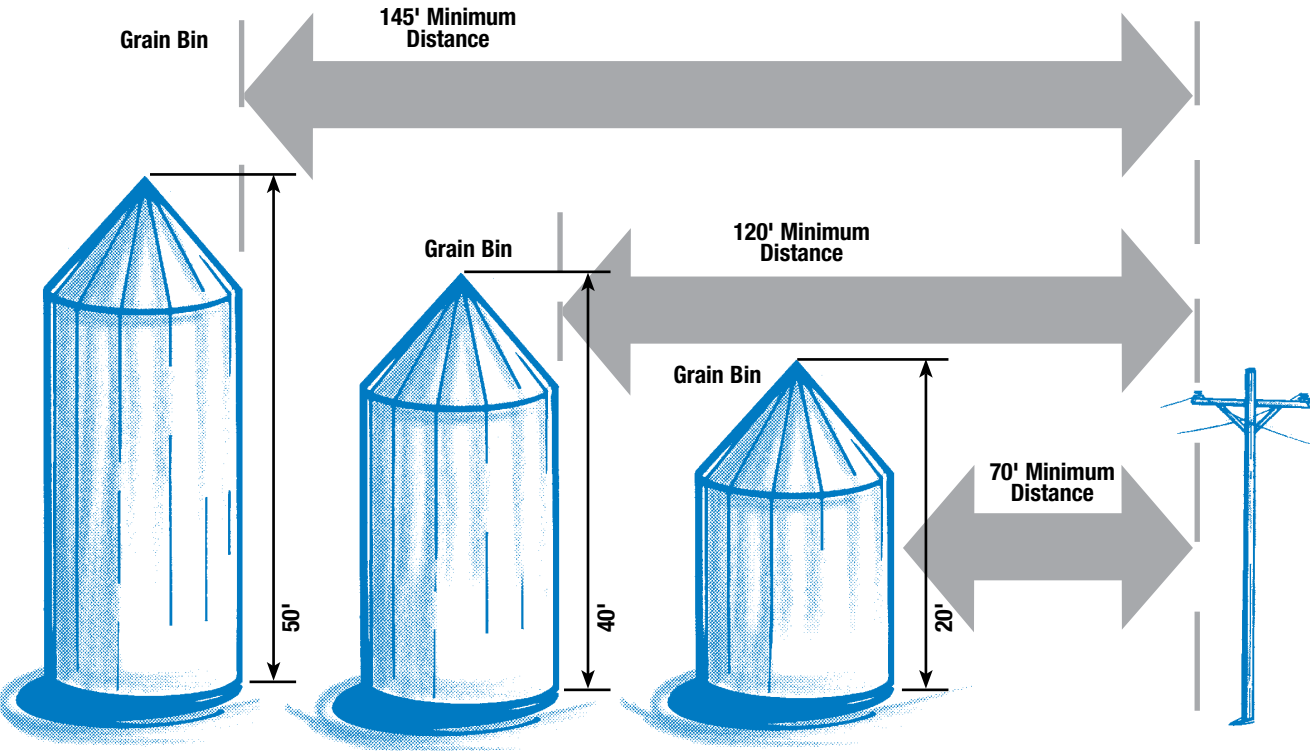
Grain Bins with Portable Augers

Grain bins that will be filled using a portable auger must be a greater distance from the closest part of the distribution line.

Call Consumers Energy if the distance from the power line to a grain bin will be less than the minimum distance listed below*:

Height of Grain Bin	Minimum Distance from Electric Line
15'	55'
20'	70'
30'	95'
40'	120'
50'	145'

*Based on 2002 National Electrical Safety Code Rule 234



Equipment, Ladders and Materials

Think about safety before moving construction equipment and other long items.

Avoid getting close to power lines when moving farm machinery, grain augers, scaffolds, portable buildings, construction cranes and other equipment.

Don't raise or carry ladders, poles, rods or irrigation pipes near power lines, and stay clear of overhead wires when installing or removing television or radio antennas.

Always lower portable augers or elevators to less than 14 feet before you move them.

When within 25 feet of a power line, use a "spotter" — someone to help make certain that you stay a safe distance from the line.



Avoid a Headache; Call Us With Questions

If you or your contractor will be building a home, garage, swimming pool, grain bin or other structure — or expanding a structure or using tall equipment such as a crane — and clearances to a power line may be a problem, call Consumers Energy toll free at **1-800-477-5050**.

We'll be pleased to meet with you at no cost to review your plans and help determine the best location for your facilities.