

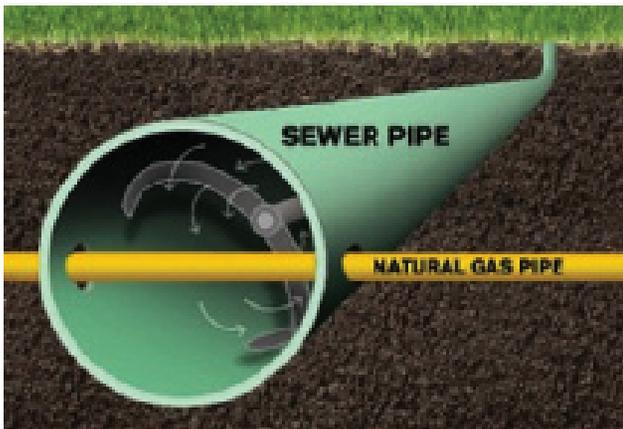
## Be aware when clearing sewer lines. The clog might be a utility line.



A blocked sewer line may be the result of another utility line (gas, electric, or communications) having been accidentally bored through the sewer line.

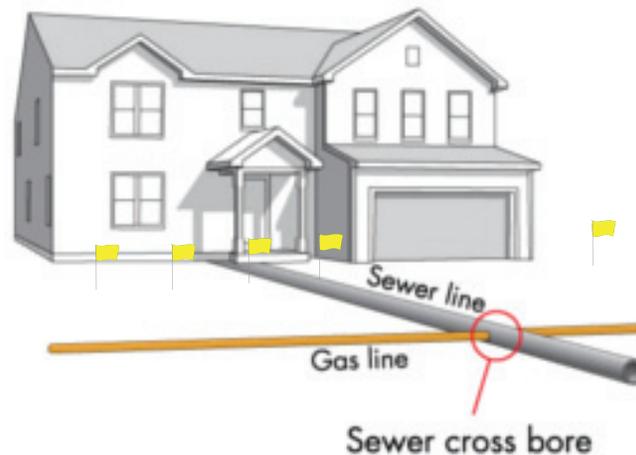
Attempting to clear this type of blockage can result in a serious accident involving loss of life, injuries, and significant property damage.

Please follow the precautionary measures in this brochure to help prevent such accidents.



### Facts:

More and more utilities and their contractors install underground lines using trenchless technology. Before using such technology, excavators are required to contact MISS DIG 811 and request the marking of underground utility lines in the area of excavation. After existing lines are marked, excavators are required to hand dig and find these facilities before they bore over or under them. Many municipalities do not mark sewer leads. As a result, excavators may end up boring through these lines without knowing it. This leaves in-service utility lines running through the sewer line itself.



### Dangerous Situation:

The presence of a utility line in a sewer line (cross bore) can go undetected for months, even years. Eventually a sewer backup develops and a plumber is called to remove the blockage. It is a common practice for plumbers to use a mechanical rotary device to root out the blockage. This process almost always damages the utility line that was bored through the sewer line. If an electric line is cut, the plumber is at risk for electrocution. If a gas line is damaged, gas can migrate through the sewer line and into homes and buildings. This could result in a major accident that may involve injuries, deaths, and significant property damage.

### Safety Precautions:

Before starting the process of cleaning out a sewer line that is blocked between the house and sewer main, please:

Contact MISS DIG 811 at [missdig811.org](http://missdig811.org) or by dialing 811 and place an emergency staking request due to sewer blockage. Utility lines that might cross the path of the sewer line will be located and marked.

Use a camera to identify the location of the blockage. If the evidence of recent excavation or utility marks are the same distance from the building as the blockage, there may well be a cross bore causing the blockage.

If you suspect or determine the blockage is caused by a cross bore:

- Do not attempt to clear the blockage.
- Get help from the utility owner that may be involved.

If you discover the confirmed existence of a cross bore:

- If not on site already, contact utility owner and request assistance with a possible sewer cross bore.

If you suspect or smell a gas leak:

- Leave and instruct others to leave area
- Call 911
- Contact the gas company
- Do not operate any power equipment
- Eliminate potential ignition sources
- Do not tamper with gas lines, meters, valves, etc.





# Become MISS DIG 811 Certified!

Looking for additional information about the MISS DIG 811 process, or how better to comply with Public Act 174 requirements? Complete the MISS DIG 811 online certification to find the answers to all of these questions and more.

[safetycert.missdig811.org](http://safetycert.missdig811.org)

## Underground Utility Color Code

### MICHIGAN'S UTILITY COLOR CODE

<b>WHITE</b>	Proposed Excavation
<b>PINK</b>	Survey
<b>RED</b>	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
<b>YELLOW</b>	Natural Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Other Gaseous Materials
<b>ORANGE</b>	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduits
<b>BLUE</b>	Portable Water, Water with Lead Conduit
<b>PURPLE</b>	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Brine, Slurry Lines and Hazardous Waste
<b>GREEN</b>	Sewer and Drain Lines, Sanitary Force Mains

### Cross Bore Awareness Program Sponsors



3285 Lapeer Road West  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326



# Cross Bore Awareness



Is that sewer backup the result of a utility line?