
This pamphlet is designed to provide information to builders or customers (or their excavating contractors) on preparing a trench for the installation of gas main and service lines. This information applies to lines installed to newly-constructed or existing buildings. Providing the trench excavation to our specifications (or installing a suitable PVC conduit pipe to allow insertion of our gas pipe) can often simplify the scheduling and installation of your new gas service. In some cases, providing trenching can also reduce your cost¹. For additional detailed information, consult the PSE&G Construction representative assigned to your site.

1. Safety comes first: PSE&G is committed to providing and working in safe environments for its employees, its customers and the general public. Safety is our first concern. Please talk to our representative about precautions and existing job conditions in the planning stage of your project. Gas services will not be installed under unsafe conditions. All open trenches must meet construction and safety standards before the actual gas line construction work can commence. For more information on PSE&G's general Construction Standards, ask your PSE&G representative.

2. The PSE&G Work Order #: Keep your PSE&G Work Order Reference Number handy at all times, and use this Order number when speaking to PSE&G Representatives. Your Order number is important in making the installation process go smoothly for both you and PSE&G. We cannot start any installation work without an Order, so please don't excavate without one. If you need a new installation Order, call our Customer Inquiry team at 800-782-0067, or complete your application On-line at <http://www.pseg.com/customer/home>.



PSE&G Customer Service
Call, mail or email us
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3. Jobsite Preparation: notify the PSE&G representative that planned your gas service at least **5 working days** in advance of performing any excavation work. **Before you dig, call for facility locations at 800-272-1000 or 811. It's the Law.** For new construction, a foundation must be installed and rough framing should be completed. The water, sewer or septic lines must be installed on the property, and the site must be within 6" of finished grade before the trenching operation. All potential hazards should be identified and corrected before digging commences.

4. Trench Specifications: Since the excavating equipment and site conditions vary from job to job, the trench specifications should be reviewed with your PSE&G field representative prior to any excavation work.

Approvals for specific jobs should be reached and agreed to in the planning process. If approved, slot trenching or other techniques that minimize the trench width can be utilized. If you want to combine other utilities in a common trench, the PSE&G Standard for Joint Trenching will need to be reviewed and approved by PSE&G. We generally want the gas line to be 30" in depth from final grade, to provide sufficient cover for future protection. The trench bottom should smoothly graded and be free of debris (rocks, roots, or other objects) that could damage the service line. Bank run sand or a suitable material must be approved and used 3" under and 6" over the installed line where it is directly placed in the trench (or suitable 4" PVC conduit can be installed in the trench subject to PSE&G approval). In addition, the line should be visually inspected and approved before the backfilling operation. Before the trench backfilling is completed to grade, an approved trench marking tape will be provided and installed 6" below final grade over the path of the service line. This helps to prevent future damage to the installation.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW?

Your PSE&G Field Representative is an expert in utility construction. Don't hesitate to contact him for scheduling or installation questions unique to your project, and ask for a copy of our Builder / Excavator Trenching Specifications.

¹ New Jersey's recently adopted Smart Growth legislation impacts your cost of service. For more information on Smart Growth, talk to your PSE&G Representative or refer to the back of this brochure to contact the New Jersey Office of Smart Growth.

[Additional Contact Information](#)

NJ Office of Smart Growth
Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 204
Trenton, NJ 08625-0204

OSG tel 609-292-7156
OSG fax 609-292-3292
email osgmail@dca.state.nj.us



To access additional information regarding New Jersey's State standards, visit the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs / Division of Codes and Standards at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/codes/>.



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Or visit us at
<http://www.pseg.com/>

**PSE&G Guide to Builder and
Customer-Provided Gas Service
Trenching**

**GENERAL RULES AND
GUIDELINES**



Remember: *Call Before You Dig*
800-272-1000 or 811

Contact New Jersey's One Call system for a free markout of underground gas, water, sewer, cable, telephone and electric utility lines at least 3 work days before any outdoor construction or digging. Making this call before you dig will help prevent property damage and potential injuries. Plus, it's the law in New Jersey. For more information about underground damage prevention, visit **NJ One Call Online** at http://www.nj1-call.org/whats_new.php.

