

Cadent

Your Gas Network

New connections

Excavation guide



About this document

Before excavating, it's important you review and understand the safe digging practices that are contained in Health and Safety document HS(G)47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services".

Key points to note

- Customers can only excavate on their own property (private land).
- Cadent will excavate any public highways, roads and footpaths.
- Excavation is not available for owners of flats, maisonettes or other shared residency buildings.
- You must excavate the full length of the supply route within your property boundary (any excavations which become necessary to be carried out by Cadent will be charged at the appropriate rate).
- The trench must be excavated from the property wall at the point of the new meter position and terminate at the edge of your property boundary.
- The trench must be excavated to a depth of 425mm (17") and must be between 200–300 mm wide (8" and 12").
- The bottom of the trench must be level and free from all sharp and/or stone materials which may damage the service pipe. In any ground containing sharp stones, it will be necessary to excavate a further 3" (75mm) and fill this space with fine material e.g. sand or stone dust to lay the new pipe on.
- Gas pipes should be laid a minimum of 300mm (12") from electricity cables and 250mm (10") from other utilities apparatus (e.g. water, BT, TV cables, drains, etc.).
- During the backfill process, Gas Marker tape should be installed a minimum of 75mm above the duct and should be placed at a convenient depth between the backfill and sub-base layers in road or footpath constructions, or 250mm above the crown of the main in unmade ground.
- Mechanical compaction equipment must not be used within 200mm (8") of the crown of the gas service pipe. Layers of backfill material must be hand rammed until this depth of cover is achieved.
- If scaffolding or similar temporary structures are being used, the trench must be as far away from any of the vertical supports as possible to minimise the risk of a collapse. Ideally ducting should be installed and the ground reinstated prior to any scaffold being erected. Cadent will **NOT** work beneath any scaffold or similar temporary structures where the trench is too close to any vertical support(s) or if other personnel are working overhead.
- The person/organisation you appoint to carry out the excavation is also responsible for ensuring that the excavation site is safely guarded. This should be done through the use of an appropriate, protective barrier system and offers sufficient protection to any person who may have access to your property.

Mains and service pipe diameter	Pipe location	Recommended minimum depth of cover (mm)
All diameter mains	In field	1100
	In roads & verges	750
	In footpaths	600
Services above 63mm/2"	In field	1100
	In roads & verges	750
	In footpaths	600
	In private property	Min. 600
Services up to and including 63mm/2"	In roads & verges	450
	In footpaths	450
	In private property	375

Table 1: Recommended minimum depth of cover for mains and services