



# LANDSCAPING AROUND EQUIPMENT



## MAKE SPACE: SMARTER PLANTING, SAFER HOMES

You can protect your home from power outages, avoid service interruptions, and save money by strategically planning your property's landscaping. By choosing trees and shrubs carefully, and planting them in the right place, you can keep your family safe and help us access and maintain the gas and electric equipment on your property.

### TREE CLEARANCE

There's actually a lot that goes into choosing the right tree and the right site – do you want a shade canopy for seasonal energy savings, or year-round color? How tall will the tree get? How fast will it grow? You'll also need to choose a species and location that keeps the tree away from overhead and underground lines. No tree should be within 25' of power lines, so make sure you know the mature height and spread of a newly planted tree.

Visit us online at [UNITIL.COM/SMART-LANDSCAPING](https://www.unitil.com/smart-landscaping) for a full guide to safe (and beautiful) landscaping.

### EQUIPMENT CLEARANCE

Knowing where your electric and gas equipment is on your



property is important. Overgrown shrubs or other types of vegetation, if left unchecked, obstruct equipment access when our techs are on scene to do their jobs.

- **Padmount Transformers:** Fences, bushes, trees and other vegetation located too close to padmount transformers can slow power restoration, make required maintenance difficult and create safety hazards. In some cases, Unitil crews may need to remove these types of vegetation to gain access to the transformer. To avoid this situation, take time to plan before planting shrubs or installing a fence near your equipment. Plants have to be at least 15 feet from the front side and 5 feet from the other sides of the transformers.
- **Gas Meters:** Your outdoor gas meter serves an important role at your home, as it is the point where natural gas from the street enters the building to provide fuel for your home appliances. Because of this vital purpose, it is important to ensure you meter has the space it needs. Overgrown shrubs or other types of vegetation, if left unchecked, obstruct the meter access when our techs are on scene to do their jobs. Gas meters must be readily accessible for routine maintenance and in case of emergency. Overgrown trees and shrubs can also apply pressure to the gas piping and cause leaks or other damage.

We recommend you keep a 3-foot radius around your meter clear of vegetation. If, during a maintenance inspection or by general observation, we find that your meter is obstructed, you may receive notification that additional steps need to be taken in order to clear the area further.



## DIG SAFE: CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

Whether you are planting a new garden or putting in a fence, first consider what's under your feet. A whole network of utility lines and pipes run underground delivering water, power, natural gas, and other services to your area. A rupture to any of these pipes could be very costly and potentially dangerous. Make sure to call Dig Safe at 8-1-1 at least three working days before breaking ground. Dig Safe contacts your local utilities and notifies them to mark where the underground lines and pipes run around your project zone.

And remember – it's not only smart to call 8-1-1 *before you dig*. **It's the law!** To learn more visit [UNITIL.COM/DIG-SAFE](http://UNITIL.COM/DIG-SAFE).



## SLAYING THE ENERGY VAMPIRES

Standby power goes by many names—ghost power, vampire power, and phantom load to name a few—but what is this monster, exactly? It's the electricity consumed by appliances and electronics that are turned off, or in standby mode. If you want to be a real hero, it's time for a little ghost busting!

Unplug these sneaky little culprits and you could save an average of \$200 a year.

- ✓ **Remote-Ready Electronics & Appliances:**  
Tv's, gaming consoles, stereos, DVD and blue ray players
- ✓ **Non-remote Electronics & Appliances:**  
Cordless phones, clocks, WiFi/Cable modems
- ✓ **The Not-So-Obvious Suspects:**  
Cell phone chargers, desktop monitors, computers, printers, coffee makers, electric toothbrushes & shavers

To learn more visit [UNITIL.COM/ENERGY-VAMPIRES](http://UNITIL.COM/ENERGY-VAMPIRES).



## MY Unitil

### 5 EASY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

- ✓ Pay online, just visit your MyUnitil Account or choose to Pay as Guest
- ✓ Set Up Automatic Payments
- ✓ Pay By Mail:  
**Unitil**  
**P.O. Box 981077**  
**Boston, MA 02298-10100**
- ✓ Pay in Person at your nearest Western Union location
- ✓ Pay over the phone  
(Call **1-888-301-7700**)

And as always, if you need help paying your bills we offer lots of programs to help you meet your energy needs. Please don't go it alone – just give us a call!



**General Customer Service Inquiries**  
**CALL US: 1-888-301-7700 (SCAN CODE TO CALL NOW)**

You can also contact us online. Fill out our online form and we'll respond to your request as soon as possible. Visit us at: [UNITIL.COM/CONTACT](http://UNITIL.COM/CONTACT)

