
# LANDSCAPING NEAR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AND POWER LINES

Be aware of the impacts and safety hazards associated with planting near electrical equipment and power lines.

## ALWAYS HAVE UTILITY LINES MARKED BEFORE YOU START TO DIG

Hitting underground power lines is a safety hazard and can be costly to repair. Knowing where they are will help you plan how to dig safely near them or know what areas to avoid.

### Three simple steps to digging safely near underground power lines:

1. Get your utilities located through **utilitysafety.ca** or by calling **1-800-242-3447.** This is a free service.
2. Avoid digging within 1 metre of an underground power line.
3. Learn how to dig and plant safely here:

EPCOR PROVIDING MORE

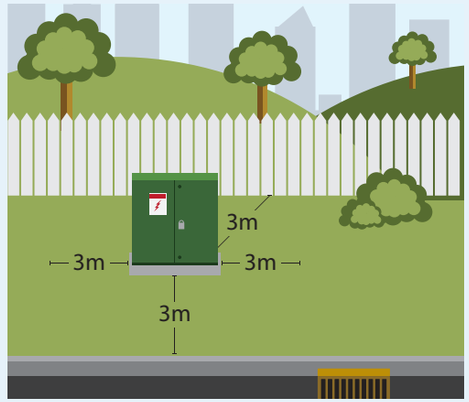
## REQUIRED CLEARANCES FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Electrical transformers and cubicles are mounted on a concrete pad foundation at ground level and are usually green in colour. Fences, structures, trees, shrubs and other vegetation can inhibit access to a transformer or cubicle.

For your safety and the safety of our crews, we require the following clearances area within the City of Edmonton.

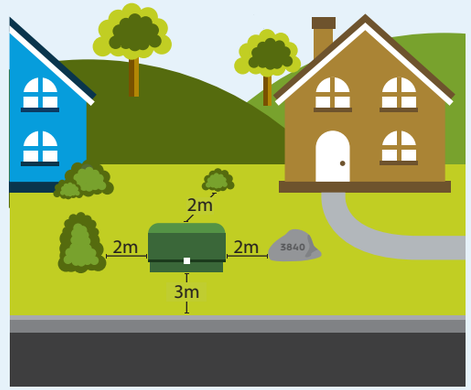
For more information, visit **epcor.com/clearances**

### CUBICLES



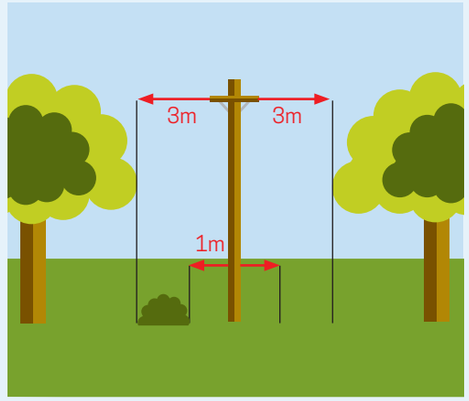

3 metres on all sides of a cubicle.

### TRANSFORMERS




3 metres on the front and 2 metres on all other sides of transformers.

### POWER POLE AND OVERHEAD POWER LINES




1 metre from power poles and 3 metres from overhead power lines.

EPCOR crews need to be able to quickly and safely access this equipment at all times. We recommend the following within 3 metres of a transformer or cubicle to ensure safe access:

- Final grade must slope away from the concrete base at a grade between 3% and 10% to allow for proper drainage and safe operational switching.
- To create a stable work area for our crews, decorative rock shall be 20 mm (3/4") or smaller three-face fractured rock. Smooth, rounded rock will not be permitted as it is easier for our crews to slip on.
- Wood chips shall be smaller than 4" as larger chips can create uneven footing.
- No decorative boulders, trees, or fences as they can block access and reduce the work area.
- Concrete and asphalt surface finishing is not permitted within 1 metre of a transformer/cubicle pad or power pole.

### For Residential Properties:

- The height of the top of the concrete base for the transformer must be between 150 mm and 200 mm above finished grade.

### For Commercial Properties:

- The height of the top of the concrete for the transformer or cubilcle must be between 250 mm and 300 mm above finished grade.

## KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TRANSFORMER AND A CUBICLE

A **transformer** is that grey or green power box in the yard. It will be near the front of the yard beside the sidewalk. The photo on the front cover of this brochure and the photo below are examples of transformers you may see.

**Switching cubicles** look like large transformers. They'll be a grey or green power box and can be located near main roads and in parking lots like the example below.

## TREES AND OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Every year, overgrown trees and other vegetation make contact with power lines. This contact creates a risk of electrical hazards including fires, electrical shock, and downed lines, which makes it a challenge to provide safe and reliable service.

If trimming your tree or shrub requires you to work within 7 metres of an overhead power line, call us at (780) 412-4500 or visit epcor.com/treetrimming to request a tree trimming.

## SAFE PLANTING

When selecting trees for planting, it is important to consider the location of overhead power lines and consider the mature height of the tree.

Planting a tree directly under the power lines can become a safety hazard as the tree will grow and interfere with the power lines which can lead to a power outage or fire.

Your local greenhouse is a good resource for more information on the mature heights of trees.