

Site Layout – Procedural List

The bid is accepted. The time has arrived. You're about to begin the job. What steps do you need to undertake before the plants go in the ground?

1. Double check the plans two weeks before ground breaking, have the utilities marked. Nowadays it's easy. One call fixes all (except cable) 800-400-2255. Just follow their lead. (Some things ARE getting easier – this and registering your business.)
2. Obtain permits and look into inspections (Nightlighting?).
3. Identify what's on site that needs protection. Waterways, trees, existing structures etc.
4. Mark traffic routes & define parking areas to minimize damage to the site. The less you destroy during construction, the less you'll have to repair out of your pocket. (Think of it as YOUR pocket.)
5. Mark hazards such as septic systems, water shut off valves, irrigation heads, culverts, etc.
6. Set aside storage areas for topsoil, tools and incoming materials. This may require substantial room even if it is kept organized. It and its surroundings will be subject to a great deal of wear and tear. Whether its turf or driveways it's liable to be damaged with shovels etc.
7. If necessary, verify property lines. Mistakes made regarding property lines are expensive!
8. Measure and install grade stakes then rough grade the area as per plans or necessity.
9. Stake out bed lines, locations of structures, paths etc.
10. It is a good idea to drop letters to neighbours regarding the work you'll be doing and your contact number. Preventative consideration will save you a lot of headaches in the long run
11. Begin construction!

Regarding trees on or near the site, remember the tree roots are right up in the grass and extend beyond the drip line of the trees. The further out from the trunk, **WHICH MUST NOT BE DAMAGED**, the higher the chances of the tree's survival. If grade changes near the tree are in the plans, consider having them revised. It's partly your liability if the tree is damaged and more and more municipalities have by-laws regarding tree protection. Set up snow fence at the desired boundary and make sure it stays up through the job.