

your electric service:

from overhead to underground



taking responsibility

As an individual, your efficient use of energy brings benefits such as lower bills, improved comfort levels in your home and a reduced personal impact on the environment.

Acting together, our individual choices add up—for the benefit of our community, our environment and our energy future. That's the power of working together.

As your community energy company, we are committed to sharing our experience and energy expertise. You can always contact us for:

- Answers to your energy questions.
- Energy efficiency information and advice.
- Help in evaluating energy-saving options.
- Assistance in finding energy-efficient products.

What you need to know

While MGE now installs all new electric services underground, most older neighborhoods still have wires overhead on power poles. MGE can bury the line from the pole to the meter on your house, if you pay for that service.

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The price tag

Electric service conversion from overhead to underground typically costs between \$1,500 and \$2,500. Our estimate does not include the cost you must pay an electrician to supply and install a new meter socket on the outside of your home and do the necessary wiring from the meter to the panel inside your home. This service typically costs another \$600 to \$1,000.

This booklet will help you understand what is involved in moving your electrical service from overhead to underground.

Step 1

Call MGE at 252-7132 and arrange for a site visit.

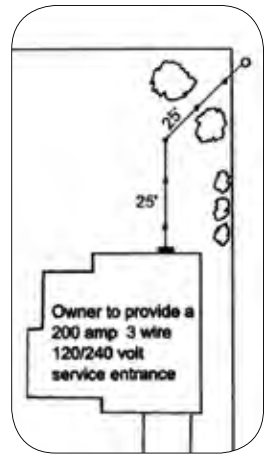
An MGE representative will visit your home to determine the best route for underground cables. If you aren't present to tell us otherwise, we'll assume the new underground meter will be located in the same general area as the existing overhead service.



If you are planning a new addition to your home, you may need to relocate your meter. Please provide a copy of your site plan showing the proposed addition and new meter location.

MGE will draw a sketch of the proposed installation route and calculate the cost of installation.

We can either mail this information to you, or e-mail if you provide your e-mail address.



Step 2

Sign the sketch and mail it to MGE with full payment

if you decide to proceed with the underground installation.

Step 3

Contact your electrician to provide and install a 200-amp (or larger) meter socket on the outside of your home, to wire from the meter socket to your electric panel and to arrange for the electrical inspection.



Meter socket installed with cable TV and telephone wires waiting final connections

Step 4

Call MGE at 252-7196 or e-mail siteplan@mge.com after the meter socket is installed to let us know your site is ready.

A crew will bury the service wires. MGE will then contact your electrician and schedule an appointment to install the meter. MGE will return to take down the existing wires and energize the new underground wires.



Is that all there's to it?

We may discover during the site visit that we'll need to install a junction box in your yard. If we don't find an existing platted easement, our Rights-of-Way Department will draft a right-of-way document and send it to you for signature. This does not add to your cost. It also gives MGE permission to access the box for future maintenance.



Can MGE install my telephone and cable TV wires underground at the same time?

If your telephone and cable TV service originate from the same pole as your electric service, a joint installation is possible. You'll incur additional charges and need to coordinate with your service providers.

Telephone

Step 1: Contact your telephone service provider for authorization. Ask for charges and connection procedures for an "Aerial to Buried" installation. Check your phone bill for contact information. Your provider must work with the owner of the telephone lines, who in turn will authorize the installation.

If your telephone service is through Charter Communication, your cable TV cable acts as the phone wire and you won't need a separate telephone wire installed.

If authorized, we'll install a telephone service wire in the trench and we'll leave enough wire at each end to make the necessary connections. **MGE must receive authorization from the telephone company for our workers to place a telephone service wire in the trench.**

If the joint installation is not approved, you may work directly with your service provider for a separate underground installation.

Step 2: Contact your phone service provider to make arrangements for the new underground service to be energized and the overhead lines to be removed.

Cable TV

Step 1: Contact Charter Communications. If you are not a cable TV subscriber and wish to have a cable installed for future use, contact Charter for an estimate of burial charges.

If you are a Charter cable TV subscriber, contact Charter for authorization to underground your service and an estimate of burial charges. Our crew will place a cable TV cable in the trench along with the electric service. We will leave enough cable at each end of the trench to make the necessary connections.

Step 2: Contact Charter Communications and make arrangements for the new underground service to be connected and energized and the overhead wire to be removed.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Charter Communications and ask for the Buried Drop Coordinator.

How much of my lawn will be dug up?

Although the trench itself is approximately 24” wide, expect an area 8’-10’ wide for the length of the trench to be disturbed. During excavating, the soil is placed on the side of the trench. After cables are placed, the soil is pushed back into the trench.



You can choose from two levels of restoration:

Standard restoration – We'll backfill the trench with the soil that came out of it, but not compact it. This is typical for new home construction, where a landscaper will be planting trees, bushes and laying sod or spreading seed. There is no extra charge for this level of restoration.

Full restoration – We'll backfill and compact the trench, sprinkle it with black dirt and scatter grass seed, then cover it with straw. Current cost – \$90 plus \$10.50 per foot

You will need to periodically water the trench to restore grass growth. How quickly the lawn regenerates will depend on weather conditions at the time.

Exceptions – In some installations due to the terrain, MGE may need to bore the route rather than dig a trench.



Standard restoration



We'll dig a series of holes approximately 3' wide by 5' long between the pole and your home and shoot a pneumatic bullet between the holes. The maximum length of the shot is limited by soil conditions and turns in the route.

This type of installation takes longer and will cost more; however, less of the yard is disturbed, making restoration easier and less expensive.



How long does this process take?

From your initial call we will visit your site within 2-3 business days, then draw the sketch and calculate the cost.

Allow approximately a week to receive the sketch and cost estimate, sign it and return it to our office with your payment via the US mail service. You can e-mail the sketch, then mail your payment, or you can drop it off at our general office at 133 S. Blair St. if you need a faster turnaround.

We will bury your service as soon as we can schedule it. During the summer months our crews are typically scheduled out four weeks. It's important that you notify us as soon as your site is ready so we can put it on our schedule. Digging in the wires/cables takes about a half day.

How quickly we can do the final electric connections depends in part on your city, village or township. By state code, your municipality's electrical inspector must inspect the work your electrician does to install the meter socket and associated wiring. The inspector must issue the electric inspection permit before we can schedule the final conversion work.

The final connections take our crew and your electrician a couple of hours during which you won't have electric power. Your telephone and cable TV connections will similarly take just an hour or two during which your service will be interrupted. Contact your cable TV and phone providers for more information.

More questions?

Call us at 252-7132 or e-mail keithv@mge.com. We're here to help.



Notes:

listening. learning.

MGE takes responsibility to provide information and education to serve our customers and stakeholders. We educate customers today to help inform their decision making. We educate tomorrow's stakeholders so they can help plan our energy future.

Bring MGE into the planning process early on to keep your projects running smoothly.

That's the power of working together.

Contact us for information about:

- Heating/Air-conditioning
- Insulating/Weatherizing
- Lighting
- Windows/Doors
- Appliances
- Water heating

Get more home energy information at:

- mge.com/home
- Home Energy Line 608-252-7117
- 800-245-1125

Questions about billing? Call:

- 608-252-7222
- 800-245-1125

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your community energy company