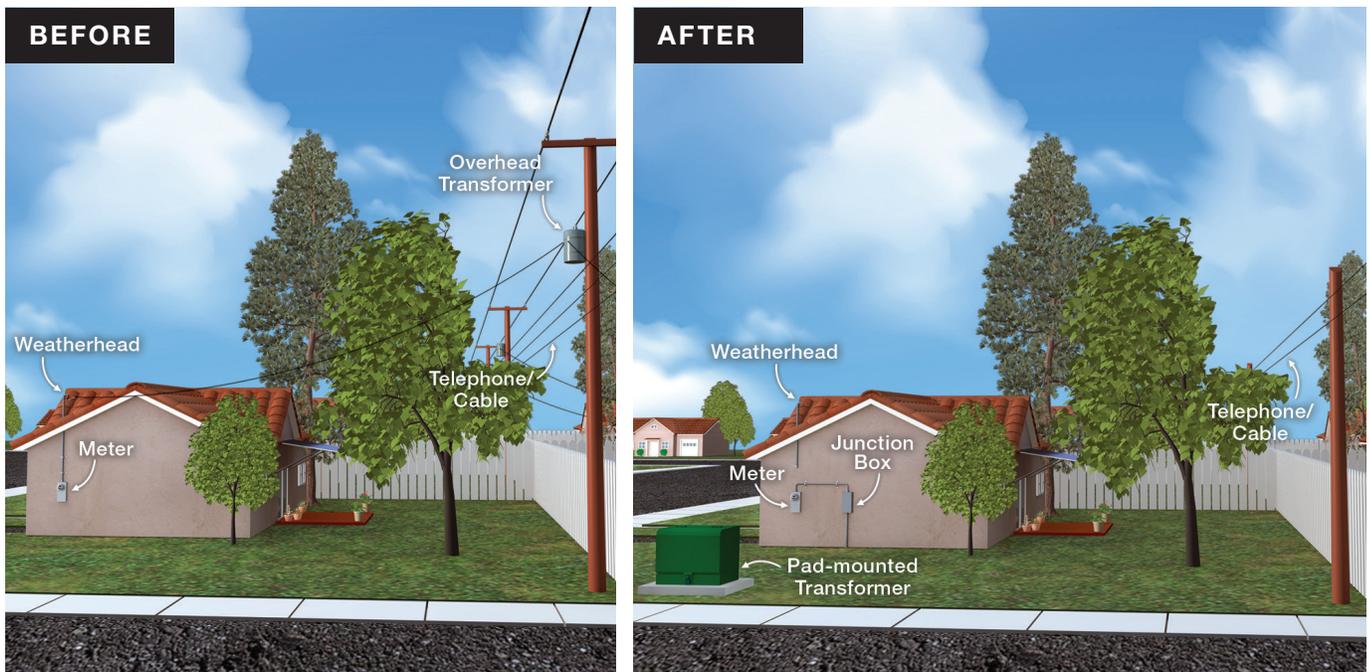


# Understanding Undergrounding

Florida Power & Light Company operates 75,000 miles of power lines covering more than half the state. Overhead power lines account for about 60 percent of the power lines that distribute power to residential and business customers. The remaining 40 percent of power lines are underground.



Since 2006, FPL has invested nearly \$4 billion in the energy grid to make it stronger and more storm-resilient. Part of that investment has been focused on hardening power lines, which includes:

- » Inspecting all of our poles for strength
- » Installing stronger poles that are able to withstand hurricane-force winds
- » Shortening spans between poles
- » Undergrounding power lines

**Hurricane Irma – a powerful storm that affected FPL’s entire service area of 35 counties – caused more than 4.4 million FPL customers to lose power. The No. 1 cause of outages during the storm was trees, vegetation and other wind-blown debris affecting the company’s power lines and other equipment.**

We have seen the benefits of underground power lines for our customers:

- » During day-to-day operations, underground power lines perform 50 percent better than overhead power lines.
- » During Hurricane Irma, underground power lines performed 85 percent better than overhead power lines because they were not affected by wind-blown debris, lightning and other elements.

While underground power lines perform better in a storm involving wind, they are still susceptible to outages, primarily due to flooding.

- » Water and electricity don't mix, so our crews need to wait until water recedes and it is safe to restore power.
- » In some cases, repairs to underground power lines may take longer than overhead power lines because of the length of time to diagnose and repair the problem.

It’s important to note that most electric service originates from overhead power lines, which can affect customers who receive power from underground power lines.