**Core Aeration: Safety Tips & Best Practices**

Core aeration improves lawn health—but it’s essential to do it safely and correctly. Here are 8 key precautions to protect your lawn, equipment, and yourself:

**1. Mark Underground Hazards**

Before you begin, clearly mark all sprinkler heads, utility lines, invisible fence, and valve boxes. This helps prevent accidental damage and costly repairs.

**2. Check Soil Moisture**

Core aerate when the soil is **moist, not dry or soggy**. Dry soil is too hard for the tines to penetrate, while super wet soil can clog the machine.

**3. Avoid Core Aerating in Heat or Drought**

Extreme heat or dry conditions can stress your grass. Aim to core aerate during mild weather and when your lawn is actively growing.

**4. Wear Eye Protection**

Always wear safety glasses or goggles while operating the core aerator to shield your eyes from flying debris.

**5. Watch for Obstacles**

Never run the core aerator over sidewalks, driveways, or visible obstacles. Raise the tines when crossing hard surfaces and avoid rocks, tree roots, or sprinkler heads.

**6. Handle Equipment Carefully**

Core aerators are heavy machines with moving parts. Use proper technique, follow all safety instructions, and avoid loose clothing.

**7. Set the Correct Depth and Spacing**

Aim for **plugs 2–4 inches deep and 3–6 inches apart**. This provides effective aeration without damaging the lawn.

**8. Make Overlapping Passes**

For compacted areas, make a second pass at a 90-degree angle to the first to ensure even coverage.