

5 Steps to Safe Digging

- 1. Call 8-1-1 or visit elocate.missdig811.org** at least three working days before digging to request underground utility lines be marked.
- 2. Wait for utility companies to mark their lines.** Natural gas lines are marked with yellow stakes, flags or paint.
- 3. Avoid digging near marks.** Before using power equipment within 4 feet of marked lines, hand dig to expose the pipe. If you have difficulty finding the pipe within 18 inches of marks, contact **MISS DIG 811**.
- 4. Respect the marks.** Be aware of all underground utility marks and other gas facilities such as valve boxes and regulator boxes. Do not place construction materials or equipment downriggers over marks.
- 5. Call if you make contact with underground lines.** If you hit or nick a pipeline while digging, stop and call Consumers Energy immediately.



CONTACT 8-1-1 even for routine jobs, such as planting shrubs and trees, replacing a mailbox post or installing a fence, deck or a basketball pole.

THE CALL AND SERVICE ARE FREE

If you smell natural gas
(a rotten egg odor):

- 1. Go to a safe place**
- 2. Call 9-1-1**
- 3. Call Consumers Energy**
800-477-5050 (24/7)

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Natural Gas Safety Resource Guide

Providing you with safe,
reliable natural gas service



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What to Know About Buried Natural Gas Lines

AS YOUR NATURAL GAS PROVIDER, we maintain all natural gas underground facilities from the gas main up to and including the gas meter.

As property owner, you're responsible for maintenance and operation of all gas lines that flow from the meter to all appliances. This includes gas lines to your yard lights, grills, pool and spa heaters, garages, workshops or similar areas.

You should be aware of the exact location and have a regular maintenance program for the underground fuel lines you own. These lines must be checked for leaks, protected from excavation damages, and if metallic, you must also check for corrosion.

A mechanical contractor can help you locate and mark your underground pipe and perform the necessary routine maintenance.

Maintaining Underground Natural Gas Lines

CONSUMERS ENERGY OFFERS assistance with inspection, maintenance and repair of the natural gas lines you own beyond the meter. There is no charge for investigation of gas leaks.

All gas leaks and other unsafe conditions must be repaired or shut off when discovered. Consumers Energy will bill when asked to perform repairs to gas leaks, corrosion repair and any other maintenance on your gas lines beyond the meter.

Failure to have a maintenance program could result in serious hazards such as fire, explosion or asphyxiation.

If you smell natural gas (a rotten egg odor):

- 1. Go to a safe place**
- 2. Call 9-1-1**
- 3. Call Consumers Energy 800-477-5050 (24/7)**



Natural Gas Safety Tips

- **Set your water heater** temperature to the manufacturer's recommendations (generally 120 degrees or lower). Check the water temperature before placing a child in the bathtub, and never leave a child alone or with other young children in the bathtub.
- **Never use gasoline** or other flammable liquids indoors or in the same room or area as a gas appliance or other ignition source.
- **After a flood** or other disaster, check for the odor of gas before entering any area. If gas is detected, leave the area immediately and call 800-477-5050 and 9-1-1 from another location. Replace any appliance submerged in water.
- **Always follow** the manufacturer's instructions in operating and caring for natural gas appliances, and use each appliance for the job it was intended.
- **Use a broom** to keep outdoor gas meters, pipes and other service equipment clear in winter. Chimneys and vents for gas appliances must be cleared after snow and ice storms to ensure proper venting and prevent carbon monoxide accumulation.
- **Ensure gas space heaters** are installed by a qualified professional and used and maintained properly.
- **Natural gas lines** should not be installed from the meter to any other buildings in which people live.
- **Carbon monoxide** is a silent killer. Assure that fuel-burning appliances are installed, maintained and used properly and safely. We recommend installing a carbon monoxide alarm that meets current standards.
- **No building or other structure** may be built over any natural gas pipeline.
- **Don't use indoor gas pipes** to hang heavy clothes or other items and don't allow children to swing on the pipes as it could cause a gas leak.
- **Never add or remove** soil over a pipeline.
- **Do not remove** gas meter brackets from buildings or store water hoses or other items on gas meters. Report unattached meters to Consumers Energy.