Natural Gas Service Installation and Meter Clearance Requirements

Call SJG’s new construction line at 1-844-611-5605 for more information.

Builder/Owner/Developer Requirements

- The clearances in this handout also apply to features on buildings adjacent to the building where the gas meter is located.
- Final grade of the service line route must be in place before the service line can be installed.
- If you are unable to meet the meter location requirements in this handout, contact SJG for further assistance.
- This document is derived from multiple SJG standards, codes, regulations, and best practices. SJG reserves the right to designate gas meter locations so that they comply with all applicable codes and SJG standards.

Gas Meter Locations

Must Be Located

- On the front wall, or within the front 1/3 of the side wall, observing the corner clearance requirements detailed below. (figure 1)
- In an area that normally permit the installation of the service in a straight-line perpendicular to the street.

Can’t Be Located

- Behind fences or gates unless no other practical location can be identified. These locations must be approved by SJG.
- Under or in front of first floor operable windows or other building openings which may be used as emergency fire exits.
- Under a carport roof, an awning, or an overhang larger than a standard eve measuring 2 feet.
- Under decks or porches. If a deck or porch is elevated, a meter may be installed under the deck.

Additionally, combustible materials cannot be located directly above the meter piping. (figure 11 & 12)
Measuring Around a Building Corner

**Outside Corners**
- The regulator relief vent must be at least 12 feet from any outside corner.
- If the regulator relief vent is less than 12 feet from any outside corner, then the minimum clearances specified in this handout must be maintained. Measure as if using a string.

**Inside Corners**
- Clearance distances from the regulator relief vent or meter set assembly to the feature must be maintained in accordance with this handout. Measure as if using a string.

**Meter Set Protection**

Meters sets must be installed in locations adequately protected from possible damage. Meter sets must have a minimum of 3 feet clearance from a “vehicle zone”. A “vehicle zone” is defined as a driveway, drive lane, parking lot, parking space, loading areas, garage entrance or any other area with vehicle traffic, or any other area with the potential for vehicle traffic.

If an industrial or commercial customer requires a meter set to be installed within an area less than 3 feet from a “vehicle zone”, the customer is responsible for installing adequate protection in accordance with SJG specifications. Contact SJG for meter set protection requirements.

**Gas Meter Clearances**

**Meter Set Assembly** must maintain a clearance of:

**Finish Grade and Landscaping**
- 3 feet in front of meter set assembly  
  - Free of any landscaping or other structures that restrict access to the meter set assembly  
- 2 feet to either side of the meter set assembly  
  - Free of any landscaping (bushes, fences, etc.) and other structures that restrict access to the meter set assembly  
- 12 inches from bottom of gas meter to finish grade  
  - Free of any landscaping (bushes, mulch, etc.) and other structures that restrict access to the meter set assembly

**Below Balconies, Entrance Platforms, Decks, and Porches**
- 6 feet measured vertically:  
  - Finish grade surface to under-side of deck  
- 3 feet measured horizontally:  
  - Door above the meter

**Meter Set Assembly & Regulator Relief Vent** must maintain a clearance of:

**Property Features**
- 3 feet measured radially to:  
  - Pad Mounted Air Conditioner or Heat Pump  
  - Electrical Generator or Electrical Transformer  
  - Open Flame Barbeque  
  - Incinerator or Other Open Flame Device  
  - Any Source of Ignition
Building Features
- **2 feet** measured radially to:
  - Telephone Box or Terminal
  - Cable Box or Terminal
  - Other Communications Connection Box or Terminal
  - Hose Spigot
  - Sump Pump Discharge
  - Condensate Drain

Electric Panels & Electric Meters
- **3 feet** measured radially to:
  - Electric Meter
- **18 inches** measured radially to:
  - SEC (Service Entrance Conduit)

Regulator Relief Vents must maintain a clearance of:

Building Features
- **3 feet** measured radially to:
  - Windows
  - Building Doors & Garage Doors
  - Crawl Space Vent or Access Door
  - Attic Vent
  - Soffit Vent
  - Bathroom Fan Vent
  - Dryer Intake/Exhaust
  - Furnace Air Intake/Exhaust
  - Fireplace Air Intake/Exhaust
  - Fireplace Cleanout Opening
  - Any Gravity Air Intake

- **3 feet** measured horizontally to:
  - Electric outlet
  - Electric Switch
  - Power Disconnect

Mechanical Building Air Intake Openings
- **10 feet** measured radially to:
  - Window Mounted Wall Fan
  - Window Mounted Air Conditioner
  - Wall Mounted Air Conditioner
  - Mechanical System Air Intake
Meter Set Assembly Clearances from Building Features

**FIGURE 3**: CLEARANCES FROM PAD-MOUNTED AIR CONDITIONERS, HEAT PUMPS, GENERATORS, TRANSFORMERS, INCINERATORS, AND OPEN FLAME DEVICES

**FIGURE 4**: PREFERRED CLEARANCES FROM WATER SPIGOTS, COMMUNICATIONS BOXES, AND CABLE BOXES

**FIGURE 5**: CLEARANCES ZONE FROM OVERHEAD OR UNDERGROUND FED ELECTRIC METERS
Meter Regulator Relief Vent Clearances from Building Features

Figure 6: Clearance Zone from Electrical Components

Figure 7: Clearance Zone from Doors and Garage Doors

Figure 8: Clearance Zone from Windows and Building Vents

Figure 9: Clearance Zone from Fans, Air Conditioners and Mechanical Air Intake Openings

Figure 10: Clearance Zone from Appliance Intake & Exhaust Features and Fire Place Cleanouts

South Jersey Gas
Meter Set Assembly Clearances from Decks and Balconies

FIGURE 11: CLEARANCE ZONE UNDER DECKS AND PORCHES (METER MUST NOT BE LOCATED UNDER STAIRS OR BETWEEN DOORS AND STAIRS)

FIGURE 12: CLEARANCE ZONE UNDER BALCONIES (NO STAIRS TO GROUND LEVEL)