

City of Richmond, DPU Gas Meter Location Requirements

Code of the City of Richmond, VA, Sec. 106-165. Location of meter provided by owner.

“The owner shall provide without cost to the city a place for the installation and maintenance of the gas service meter, which shall be satisfactory to and approved by the director”.

Meter Inlet

Regulator Vent

Meter Valve



METER LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

All measurements are from the regulator vent. If there is no regulator, then measurements are from the meter inlet

The meter must be in a readily accessible location where gas from the vent can escape freely into the atmosphere and:

- 10' from any powered air intake vent
- 3' from any door (including a garage door)
- 3' from any window that opens
- 3' from any other opening into or under the building including dryer vents and foundation vents
- 3' from any ignition source including:
 - Electric meter
 - Electric panel
 - Electric outlet
 - Electric pedestal
 - Grounding electrode
 - Air conditioning unit and associated disconnect
 - Pad mounted transformer
- 1' from any water spigot
- Not under any deck that is less than 6' above the finished grade

In some cases the vent can be extended to achieve the required clearance listed above. Any exceptions must be approved by the appropriate DPU Operations Manager.

Additional requirements include:

- The bottom of the meter must be at least 6" above finished grade and mulch
- The meter valve must be at least 11" above the finished grade (18" above for 2" diameter services)
- The meter valve operator must be facing to the left to allow ease of operation
- Any meter enclosure must allow for safe operation of the meter valve, maintenance and removal of the meter or regulator, and a means of venting the regulator to the atmosphere.
- The National Electric Code (NEC) prohibits the use of underground gas piping as a grounding electrode.
- The meter must be located 3' away from a driveway or vehicular traffic. Meters exposed to vehicular damage may require guard posts in accordance with State of Virginia Fire Prevention Code requirements. See separate Meter Protection Requirements.

If changes are made after meter installation and the meter location no longer meets these requirements, the owner will be charged to move the meter in accordance with City Code Section 106-166.

If you have any questions, please call (804) 646-8300

City of Richmond, DPU Gas Meter Protection Requirements

Regulatory Requirements

49 CFR 192.353: "Each Meter and Service Regulator...must be installed in a readily accessible location and be protected from corrosion and other damage, including...vehicular damage that may be anticipated."

State of Virginia Fire Prevention Code, Section 603.9: Gas Meters – "Above ground gas meters, regulators and piping subject to damage shall be protected by a barrier complying with Section 312 or otherwise protected in an approved manner."

State of Virginia Fire Prevention Code, Section 312: Vehicle Impact Protection –

312.1 General "Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts that comply with section 312.2 or by other approved physical barriers that comply with section 312.3."

312.2 Posts "Guard posts shall comply with all the following requirements:

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet deep in a concrete footing of not less than 15-inch diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet from the protected object.

312.3 Other Barriers "Physical barriers shall be a minimum of 36 inches in height and shall resist the force of 12,000 pounds applied 36 inches above the adjacent ground surface."

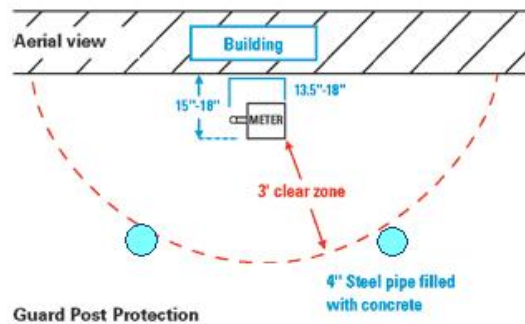
METER PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

City of Richmond, DPU prefers to locate meters well away from the threat of vehicular damage. If such a location cannot be provided, then the owner is responsible for installation of protective posts that meet the Virginia Fire Prevention Code requirements (above).

Examples of locations that may require protection:

- Driveways
- At garage doors
- Alleys
- Garages and parking areas
- In front of parking spaces where the extended bed of a truck could strike the meter
- At loading docks
- Rear of strip malls
- In close proximity to dumpsters

New meters will not be set until appropriate meter protection is installed.



Any exceptions or alternate guard post design must be approved, in writing, by an Operations Manager. If changes are made after meter installation and the meter protection no longer meets these requirements, the owner will be required to install guard posts or will be charged to move the meter in accordance with City Code Section 106-166.

If you have any questions, please call (804) 646-8300

City of Richmond, DPU Gas Meter Precautions

As the owner or occupant of a building that is supplied with natural gas, you have a shared responsibility to ensure that the gas meter, regulator and associated piping are protected from damage.

Some precautions around gas meter equipment:

Take care when using lawn mowers, brush cutters or digging in gardens or flower beds so you do not damage gas piping

Do not scratch or damage the protective coating (paint) on the meter and piping.

You are responsible for the maintenance of any piping after the gas meter and before your gas appliances

Do not hang things from the gas piping

Do not chain a pet, bicycle, gas grill or anything else to the gas meter or piping

Do not anchor laundry lines or plant supports to the gas meter or piping

Maintain a safe clearance between your gas, charcoal or propane grill and the gas meter.

Maintain a two foot clearance to allow access to the meter and meter shut-off valve.

Please note the requirements of City Code Section 106-160:

Sec. 106-160. Disconnection of meter or change or alteration of connection without permission.

No gas meter shall be disconnected from a service connection, moved or disturbed in any manner by any person nor shall any service connection be changed or altered in any manner without the written permission of the director.

Call Miss Utility (dial 811) at least three full business days before digging in your yard. This notice will allow affected utilities time to mark the location of their underground facilities for your safety. The call and markout service are free.

If you have any questions, please call (804) 646-8300