

Bessemer City Natural Gas Department

Code Requirements for Natural Gas Appliance Installation

The City of Bessemer City operates a section of the City's natural gas system inside the city limits of Gastonia. If your residence is inside this section of the service area, you must get a Gas Application Installation Permit and Inspection from the City of Gastonia, Department of Code Enforcement.

All others must get a permit and inspection from the Gaston County Building Inspection Department. Bessemer City requires that all customers have their gas appliances and customer piping inspected and approved by a NC licensed HVAC contractor prior to the installation of a gas meter. This rule is for your SAFETY and to assure Bessemer City, as the gas supplier, that your gas fired appliances have been inspected by a competent person and that it is SAFE to operate.

Appliance and Fuel Piping Requirements for Customers of the Bessemer City Natural Gas System

1. No two pound residential gas systems.

The City's gas system will supply "seven inches of water column pressure" (4 ounces pressure) for all residential applications.

2. Location of meter.

Under no circumstances will a gas meter be located at the rear of a residence or business. A gas meter cannot be located in front of a vent, where the possibility of leaking gas could migrate into the structure. The City is required to maintain 36 inches clearance between the gas meter and any point of ignition, such as an electrical meter base or a heating unit quick disconnect.

3. Piping Requirements.

Bessemer City requires that there be 36 inches of Black Steel Pipe installed on the outlet (customer side) of the gas meter. This pipe must be attached to the structure wall so that it will help support the gas meter. *Bessemer City will not install a meter until this requirement is met.*

4. Customer Piping.

Where there is piping coming through the building wall, near the outlet of the gas meter, do not extend this pipe more than 4 inches. This piping should not be more than 20 inches to the RIGHT of the gas riser.

5. Fenced Yards.

Where there is a fence installed at the side yard location, the gas meter must be located either on the front of the building or inside the fenced area nearest to the front corner of the building.

6. Installation of a gas meter.

The gas department will install a gas meter AFTER the inspector has approved the installation of appliances and witnessed a pressure test on the customer piping. If approved, the inspector will place an approval sticker on the customer piping, near the final connection point.

7. Final Connections.

The gas department will the final connection if the customer is within 12 inches of the meter outlet. The gas department will not make the final connection to COPPER TUBING.

8. Gas Pipe Bonding.

Each above-ground portion of a gas piping system that has the potential to become energized shall be electrically continuous and bonded to an effective ground-fault current path. Gas piping shall be considered to be bonded where it is connected to appliances that are connected to the equipment grounding conductor of the circuit supplying that appliance. An insulating union shall be used after meter and before customer piping. **(NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code)**

9. Excess Flow Valves.

As a requirement of Distribution and Pipeline Integrity Management regulations, the City of Bessemer City Natural Gas Department, as of January 1, 2006, is required to install an Excess Flow Valve on any and all new or renewed "residential" natural gas service. These Excess Flow Valves will be installed on the Customer's gas service piping and will be maintained by the City's Gas Department. The cost of the Excess Flow Valve will be at the Customer's expense.

Excess Flow Valves are designed to be installed on gas service piping at the point of connection to the gas main. Excess Flow Valves are designed to maintain a set amount of gas flow pressure to the residence. It is designed to protect the residence or property in the event the gas service piping is accidentally cut and will stop or limit the flow of gas between the gas main and the damaged point.