

## An Open Letter to our Customers and Business Partners Regarding Gas Meter Location Standards

At Columbia Gas of Virginia, nothing is more important than your safety. We work hard each and every day to properly maintain our pipelines to ensure the safe, reliable delivery of natural gas to you – our customers and business partners including builders, contractors and plumbers.

Natural gas pipeline safety is a shared responsibility and we need your help. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with our gas meter location standards described in this letter.

After reading this letter, you should have a better understanding of:

- How to determine the best location for our gas meter
- How to protect our gas meter and service line and keep them in compliance
- Meter protection design requirements

### How to determine the best location for your gas meter

Please keep these required gas standards in mind when determining the best location for our gas meter:

- Create a **straight line of sight** from the meter to our gas main line facility which is typically located in or near the street right-of-way or alley.
- Locate the meter a **minimum of 3 feet from any building opening**, vent, electric equipment, electric panel or meter and any other possible source of ignition.
- **Protect the meter from vehicular traffic** with meter protection bollards.
- Ensure the gas meter is **accessible by our service technicians or other emergency responders**. Do not install the gas meter indoors or in confined spaces such as a crawl space, a closet, a vault or shaft.

### How to protect our gas meter and service line and keep them in compliance

Please help us protect our gas meter and service line by following these guidelines for keeping your service in compliance.

- Locate the meter where it will not be damaged by outside forces such as vehicular traffic, ice, snow, construction equipment and falling objects. Avoid installing the meter under a fire escape.

- Meter protection is required if there is less than 5 feet of clearance between the meter and the edge of pavement or curb.
- Meter protection is required if there is less than 8 feet of clearance from the edge of any perpendicular parking surface.
- Do not build structures such as decks, garages, or patios over the meter or service line. The meter and service line are property of Columbia Gas of Virginia and must remain accessible by our service technicians or other emergency responders.

### More about meter protection design

- Meters requiring protection should have a **minimum of two bollards** installed. Bollards must be:
  - Minimum 4” in diameter
  - Grade B, schedule 40 steel pipe
  - Minimum 60” in length
  - Filled with concrete and domed at the top
- Bollards **must extend above grade** to a distance that is sufficient to offer adequate protection to the meter.
- Bollards must be **placed in concrete-filled holes** at least 24” deep and 12” in diameter.
- The concrete must be **sloped away from the bollard** at grade level.
- Bollards **cannot be installed closer than 1 foot from the front of the meter set assembly** and must allow adequate room for operation and maintenance activities.

For more information about gas meter location standards, please visit our website at:  
<http://www.columbiagasva.com/meterlocation>

Or contact our New Business Team at:  
800-440-6111  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### IMPORTANT!

The guidance in this document is subject to change and is not intended to be all-inclusive. This guidance is not a substitute for local codes, ordinances, and governmental regulations. When in doubt as to the proper procedures to follow or if you have questions, call Columbia Gas of Virginia at 1-800-440-6111 before proceeding with the work.