

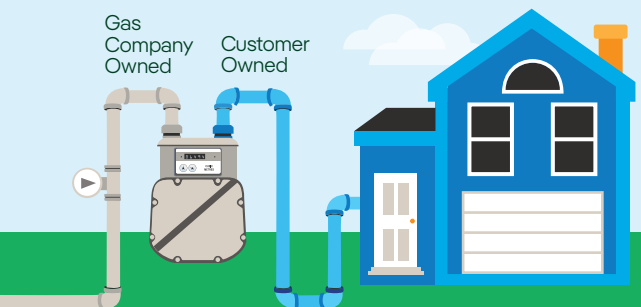
As your natural gas company, it's our responsibility to maintain the safety and reliability of our natural gas distribution system. That system ends at the gas meter.

As the property owner, manager, tenant or occupant, you are responsible for natural gas pipes and buried lines on the customer side of the meter. These include:

- Pipes from your gas meter to the appliances on your property.
- Pipes that extend from your meter underground to a building; pool or spa heater; generator; barbecue or other natural gas appliances.

If your buried gas piping is not maintained, it may be subject to the potential hazards of corrosion and leakage. Buried piping should be periodically inspected for leaks, and metallic piping for corrosion. Any unsafe conditions should be repaired if discovered. Plumbing and heating contractors can assist in locating, inspecting and repairing buried piping.

When excavating near buried gas piping, the piping should be located in advance, and the excavation done by hand. **If you plan excavation**, call **811** or visit **[digsafe.com](https://www.digsafe.com)** to contact *Massachusetts' Call Before You Dig program* at least two business days before excavation begins. Dig Safe will locate buried utility-owned natural gas lines and other underground utilities. For more information, call Berkshire Gas at **800.292.5012**.



Hot water safety

Water from the faucet can get hot enough to cause third-degree burns in seconds.

- Set your water heater's thermostat to 120°F to prevent scalding and save energy, per EPA recommendations.
- When bathing infants, small children and the elderly **hand test the water temperature**. Supervise small children in the tub.
- Consider installing an **anti-scalding device** on fixtures, particularly where water temperature is unreliable.

Flammable materials

Flammables and appliances are a mix that can kill. Vapors from flammable liquids can explode and catch fire when exposed to a flame or electrical spark, causing death or severe burns.

- Never store or use gasoline or any flammable products such as solvents, varnishes or adhesives in the same room with a gas, oil or electric appliance.
- Never store rags, paper or other combustibles near any gas, oil or electric appliance.
- Have only qualified personnel install or service your appliances.
- If an appliance, such as a water heater, is installed where flammable products will be stored or used, such as a garage, be sure it is a minimum of 18" above the floor unless listed as flammable vapor ignition resistant. This may reduce but not eliminate the risk.

Remember: *Vapors from flammable products cannot be seen. They are usually heavier than air and can travel great distances. They can be carried from other rooms by air currents to the pilot and main burner flames of gas appliances.*