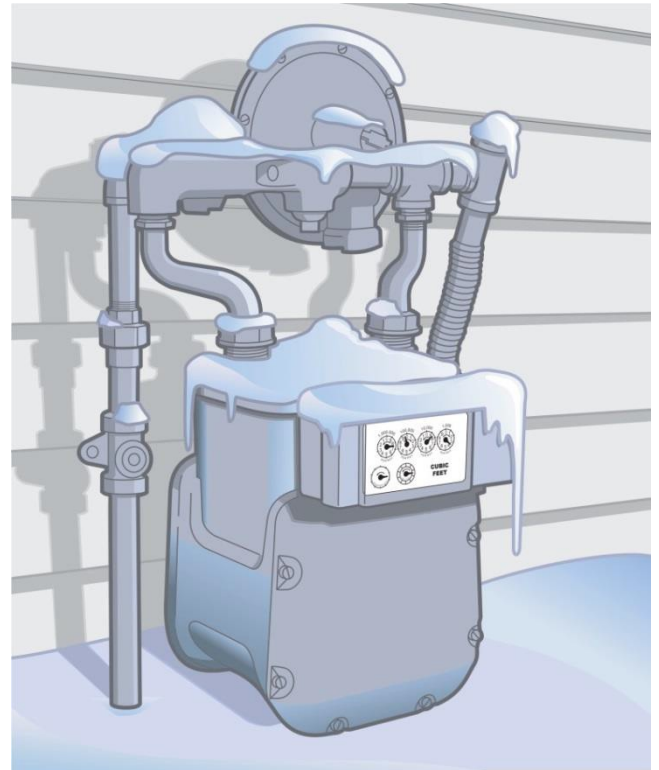


Winter Safety Tips – Utility Equipment

Please keep outside meters and vents clear of ice and snow. Use a broom or brush to gently clear the area around the meter, pushing snow away from the meter. Do not melt ice or snow on meters with a heat source, and do not chip or scrape ice. These methods can damage or break the meter. It is also important to remove icicles that hang over the meter and can drip freezing water that may damage equipment.

Make sure exhaust vents aren't covered by snow or blocked by ice

Exhaust vents for high efficiency natural gas appliances such as water heaters, furnaces and fireplaces should also be cleared of snow and ice. Keep clothes dryer vents unblocked and clean too. Exhaust gases need a clear opening to vent to the outside and prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide, a dangerous gas. Most exhaust vents are plastic pipes exiting the foundation of a building. Some inside gas meters vent to the outside through a small metal pipe vent through the foundation. As always, if you have safety concerns or smell natural gas, please get to a safe location and **call 911 immediately**.



Be cautious to avoid hitting buried equipment during snow removal

Be careful when clearing snow, especially when using mechanized equipment—plows and snow blowers—and avoid areas where utility equipment such as meters, piping, and ground-mounted transformers may be covered by snow. Manually clear utility equipment with a broom or brush. Take note of the locations of outside utility equipment before major snowfalls.

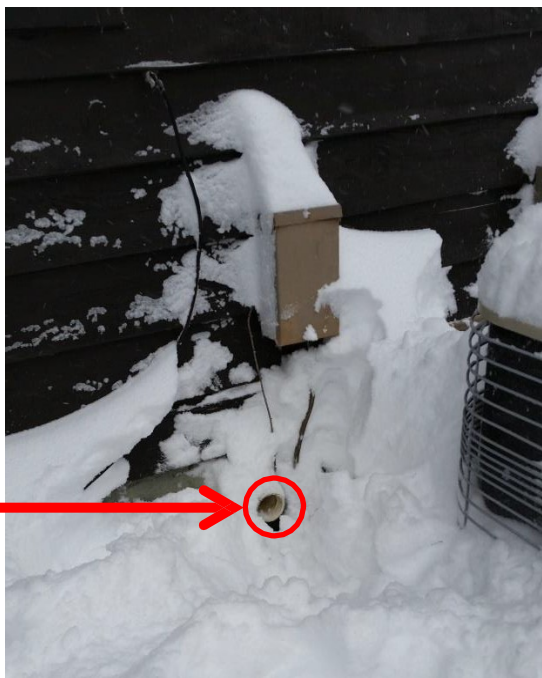
Sample Appliance Vents



Sample Outside Vent for Indoor Gas Meter



Nearly blocked vent pipe



Buried gas meter

