

Underground Piping Requirements

Thank you for your interest in using Natural Gas. It's clean, convenient, reliable, and one of the most cost-effective applications for heating, cooking, or hot water. The following information is designed to hopefully make the process easy for you. If you have any questions, please contact Phil St. Amand at 1-800-454-2201 ext. 110.

To run underground piping to a pool heater or other gas appliance, you must first understand the responsibilities of St. Lawrence Gas, the utility company, and those of your contractor.

St. Lawrence Gas is a natural gas utility company that is responsible for the installation & maintenance of gas lines, up to and including the meter & regulator, and by statute, responsible for periodic survey of customer-owned underground piping. The customer remains responsible for the installation, maintenance and repair of all piping past the outlet of the meter.

Your plumbing and heating contractor is hired by you, the customer, to install, repair, and maintain equipment (water heaters, conversion burners, furnaces, etc.) and gas piping beyond the meter.

To get a pool heater or other appliance installed, there is utility work that must be done by St. Lawrence Gas, **and non-utility work beyond the meter, which may be done by any contractor of your choosing (check the yellow pages for references).** Please follow the steps below:

1. **Determine exact location of heater - This step will help determine whether or not** underground piping is required, and will also help in making an accurate estimate by your contractor to install gas piping.
 - a. Install your appliance according to the manufacturer specifications, or a warning tag may be issued and gas service to the appliance may be interrupted until corrections are made.
 - b. If you are installing a pool heater that will be located in an enclosed area (e.g. building shed), ensure there is proper ventilation (check manufacturer specifications) since proper combustion of a fuel requires an adequate supply of air.
2. **Contact St. Lawrence Gas to check the gas load -** The Company will determine if your meter needs to be upgraded to larger size. There are different meters, normally sized in respect to the combined input of all your gas appliances. **Please complete the enclosed "GAS LOAD SHEET,"** which we will use to size your meter. If it is determined a larger meter is needed, one will be installed by

St. Lawrence Gas. If the proper size meter is not installed you may not get all the gas needed to allow your gas equipment to operate properly and safely.

3. **Select qualified contractor** - Check the yellow pages.
4. **Call for a “stakeout”** – If you or your contractor are planning to install a fence, install footers for a deck, install area lighting, dig for your pool, and/or dig a trench to bury the gas line, **YOU MUST FIRST CALL for a “stakeout” (1-800-962-7962)**. A stakeout will identify any underground facilities, like electric, cable, telephone or sewer. Under New York State Law protecting underground facilities, you must call at least two full business days and no more than ten business days in advance (not including the date of the call) before any digging can begin.
5. **Dig a trench approximately 18” deep x 6” wide** - The dimension of the trench can be reduced to 12”x 6” if external damage to pipe is not likely to result. If a 12” cover cannot be maintained, the pipe shall be installed in conduit.
 - a. Trench should be prepared such that the pipe lays on a firm, continuous bearing (flat) on the bottom of the ditch
 - b. If digging conditions are rocky (e.g. rocks, or coarse soil, etc), your ditch must be backfilled with sand, to prevent any future damage to the gas line.
 - c. You should also be aware that there are spacing requirements between utilities in a common trench. The electric code allows a common trench but requires a specific spacing / distance from the gas line.
6. **Run gas pipe and tracer wire** - Your contractor is responsible for installing the gas piping and “tracer wire.” The piping must be polyethylene and sized properly for the input of the pool heater. Tracer wire will help St. Lawrence Gas locate your underground piping in the future. St. Lawrence Gas requires a minimum of 14 gauge tracer certified for direct burial.
7. **Run air test** - St. Lawrence Gas recommends that your contractor perform an air test on the gas piping, to ensure there are no leaks. We recommend a 50 lb. 2 hr. air test or 50 lbs. of nitrogen for two hrs. that is monitored with a spring gauge in 2 lb. increments.
8. **Call for meter replacement and/or gas piping location** - Call St. Lawrence Gas to note the location of the gas piping installed by your contractor. The location of this piping is important and a New York State Public Service Commission requirement, since the gas company will have to perform periodic surveys of this line. If your meter needs replacing (see step #2), that work will also be done. **Please give St. Lawrence Gas four business days notice.**
9. **Connect pipe to appliance and meter** - Your contractor must connect the appliance to your house gas piping system.
10. **Light pilot** - Light the pilot on your appliance, turn it on, and you are ready to enjoy the benefits of using natural gas.

GAS LOAD SHEET

Meter Sizing Information

The information provided on this sheet will be used by St. Lawrence Gas to properly size your gas meter and regulator. The information should also be provided to your contractor for proper sizing of the gas piping to supply your pool heater or new gas appliance.

Customer Information

Name _____

Service Address _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Phone Number (work) _____
 _____ (home)

Mailing Address (if different from billing address) _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Gas Load Information

Gas Appliances	BTU / hour Input Rating (obtain from rating plate on equipment)
Furnace	
Boiler	
Water Heater	
Range (total including all top burners and oven burner)	
Wall Oven	
Cooktop	
Hearth Product	
Space Heater	
Clothes Dryer	
Natural Gas BBQ	
Natural Gas Lights (Number of mantels times 7,000 Btu/hr.)	
Natural Gas Patio Heater	
Other (describe)	
Other (describe)	
Total Existing Gas Load	
New Appliance (pool heater, space heater, etc)	
Total Gas Load After New Appliance Installation	