

Natural gas safety and you

Smell Gas?

Look for blowing dirt, discolored vegetation or continued bubbling in standing water.

Listen near a natural gas appliance or line; there may be a hissing or roaring sound when natural gas is leaking.

Smell for the distinctive, rotten-egg odor associated with natural gas. Natural gas is colorless and odorless so we add an odorant with this scent for easy detection. You should take action any time you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air.



I'm Sniffy!

Kids can visit me online to learn more about natural gas safety!

atlantagaslight.com/sniffy

Act fast!

Leave the area immediately if you detect a natural gas leak. Don't try to identify the source or to stop the leak yourself.

Avoid touching anything that may cause a spark. This includes starting a car engine or using cell phones, lighters, matches, cigarettes, flashlights, light switches or landlines. Natural gas is non-toxic, lighter than air and displaces oxygen. Keep away from any ignition sources because natural gas can burn near a spark, possibly causing a fire or explosion. In severe cases, if not used properly, it can also lead to asphyxiation.

Call Atlanta Gas Light or 911 once you are out of the area of the suspected leak and in a safe place. Stay away until Atlanta Gas Light or emergency personnel indicate it is safe to return.

Note: Do not rely solely on your sense of smell to determine if a gas leak exists or if natural gas is present. Some persons may not be able to detect the odorant because they have a diminished sense of smell or olfactory fatigue, or because the odor is being masked by other odors in the area. Certain conditions may cause the odorant to diminish so that it is not detectable.

Even though natural gas pipeline incidents are uncommon, you can help prevent emergencies by knowing the signs of a potential problem.

Anytime you suspect a leak, call us at **877.427.4321**.

Para solicitar una copia de esta información en español, visite atlantagaslight.com/safetyspanish.



Plan ahead to stay safe

Know what's below.
Call  before you dig.

Planning a home improvement project? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! With any digging on your property, here's what you need to know first:

Excavation work, including digging or plowing around a home or business, is the most common cause of natural gas emergencies. Before digging around your property, state law requires you call **811**, a statewide, toll-free number, to have your utility lines professionally marked. After calling you must wait the required amount of time before digging, so underground utility lines can be located and marked – free of charge – before you begin your project.

▶ Water heater safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges all users to lower their water heaters to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

A thermostat setting of 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius) may be necessary for residential water heaters to reduce or eliminate the risk of most tap water scald injuries. Consumers should consider lowering the thermostat to the lowest settings that will satisfy hot water needs for all clothing and dish washing machines.

Never take hot water temperature for granted. Always hand-test before using, especially when bathing children and infants.

▶ Gas piping

Atlanta Gas Light is responsible for maintaining the gas lines that deliver natural gas to the meter at your home. You are responsible for maintaining the natural gas lines from the meter to the natural gas burning appliances throughout your home and property – indoors and outdoors, above and below ground. Don't forget that you may have gas lines extending to yard lights, grills, pool heaters, and garage or workshop heaters.

▶ Natural disasters

Should your property be affected by a natural disaster such as floods, tornadoes or hurricanes, be aware appliance connectors and gas piping may be impacted. If a leak is suspected:

- Leave the building immediately and have others also exit immediately.
- Do not light a match, operate natural gas appliances, use a phone or turn an electrical switch on or off. Keep everyone away from the area of the odor. Do not start a car. Go to a nearby phone away from the smell and call **877.427.4321**.

It is recommended that any gas appliances that have been submerged in water be replaced.

▶ Appliance connectors

Appliance connectors are corrugated metal tubes used to connect gas appliances to fuel gas supply pipes in your home or business. Some older brass connectors – that have not been made for more than 20 years, but still found in older homes and buildings – have a potential flaw in how their tubing is joined to their end pieces. Over time, the end pieces can separate from the tubing and may cause a serious leak, explosion or fire.

Although not all uncoated connectors have this potential flaw, it is difficult to tell which ones do. Therefore, any uncoated brass connector should be replaced immediately by a certified contractor.

Be sure to follow these appliance connector guidelines:

- Make sure that connectors are installed where no one will step, sit, lean or place a heavy object on them.
- Never have a connector installed through a wall, floor or ceiling.
- An appliance connector should not be more than six feet long.
- Each appliance should have a shut-off valve installed on the house piping before the connector.
- A new connector should be installed by a certified contractor every time an appliance is replaced.

Visit atlantagaslight.com/safety for additional natural gas safety information.

Pipeline integrity management is a process for assessing and mitigating pipeline risks in an effort to reduce both the likelihood and consequences of incidents. We have a comprehensive plan that fully addresses these processes especially for locations deemed high consequence areas.

Visit atlantagaslight.com/integritymanagementplan.