

Nothing is more important to Washington Gas than our commitment to deliver natural gas to you in a safe and reliable way. Through a variety of channels, we inform you throughout the year on the qualities of natural gas and important safety tips. Please read the information below and share it with others.

Natural Gas Safety

If You Smell Natural Gas

If you suspect a natural gas leak or other gas emergency and are unsure of its severity or what to do, evacuate the area immediately and call **911** from a safe location. Never attempt to locate the source of the odor.

Recognize

Natural gas is non-toxic, colorless, odorless and combustible. For safety and detection, Washington Gas adds an unpleasant odorant called mercaptan to the natural gas traveling through most of its pipelines. Call **202-624-6092** for a "Scratch & Sniff" brochure. Large groups and property managers are invited to request multiple copies. Gas traveling through a small portion of our transmission pipelines is not odorized; visible signs of a possible leak are described below.

React

If you think you smell natural gas, call **911** or the Washington Gas Emergency Leak Line at **703-750-1400**. Dial **1-800-752-7520** outside the local calling area.

- In **Frederick County, Maryland**, residents should call **911** or **301-662-2151**.
- Residents located in **Clarke, Frederick, Shenandoah and Warren Counties, Virginia**, should call **911, 540-869-1111** or **1-800-566-7436**.

If the odor is very strong, or you hear a blowing or hissing noise, vacate the building or area immediately, leaving doors unlocked as you go. Warn others as you exit if possible. Do nothing that could create an ignition source. Do not light a match or use any type of phone or battery-powered equipment. Do not turn electrical equipment or light switches on or off. Do not start a car or any type of motorized equipment. Call **911** and the Washington Gas emergency numbers for your area, listed immediately above, only after you are a safe distance away from the building or area. Follow the same precautions if you are outside and smell gas; hear hissing or blowing noises; see dirt being thrown into the air; fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn aboveground, water bubbling or being blown into the air at a pond, creek or river; or if you see a dry spot in a moist field or dead or dying vegetation on or near a pipeline right-of-way.

Natural gas is distributed through a network of underground pipes and service lines. If a leak should occur it is possible for gas to migrate into buildings, including those without natural gas service.

Respond

Washington Gas responds around the clock to natural gas leaks and other emergencies. If a leak poses an immediate threat, the company takes quick action to make the area safe. Corrective action is scheduled for a later date if there is no immediate threat.

Prevent Pipeline Damage - Call 811 Before You Dig

Damage to any kind of utility line, including natural gas pipelines, can result in property damage, serious injury or worse. So, whether you are a homeowner or contractor, planting a tree in the back yard or planning major excavation work, be sure to call **811** to have underground utility lines in your work area located and marked before you begin digging. It's the law, and it's easy. Calling to **811** starts the process of having the underground utilities located and marked for **FREE** with bright safety paint and/or flags. Always call **811** at least two full business days – excluding weekends and holidays – before you are scheduled to begin work. Do not begin digging until you are sure the lines have been marked or cleared as "no conflict." If in doubt, check back with **811**.

Visit washingtongas.com and click on **Safety Information** to learn more.



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