



Gas test inspection guidelines

When is a gas test inspection required?

1. Whenever a new system is installed. (New Construction)
2. When leaks are found in an existing system.
3. When a gas system has been turned off for more than 180 days.
4. When alterations are made to an existing gas piping system.

Gas company will not will not turn new service on or restore service that has been turned off to any customer unless a gas test inspection has been performed and approved by the City.

How to prepare for a successful result:

1. Obtain a permit from City Hall Permits office. Permit may be obtained by Licensed Plumbing Contractor or homeowner. **Work may only be performed by a plumber with a master gas fitter license on file with the city.**
2. Obtain an approved test gauge. The test gauge shall be a calibrated diaphragm type gauge.
NOTE: CHEAP SPRING TYPE TEST GAUGES ARE NOT PERMITTED.

- Required test pressure for a standard low pressure residential system is 5 psig. The gauge used for residential tests must have a range that is NOT greater than 5 times the test pressure. Example: If testing for 5 psig, the gauge used cannot be capable of going past 25 psi. (IRC G2417.4). PERMIT HOLDER MUST LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE WHAT THE PRESSURE WILL BE SET TO ON THE GAUGE.
- For a medium pressure system a test pressure of 10 psig will be required.

The test pressure must be maintained for at least 15 minutes with NO visible loss. For large commercial systems, longer test duration may be required. If pressure loss is observed, leaks must be located and repaired.

3. All piping must be tested from the point of attachment at the meter to the shut off valves for each individual gas appliance. Shut off valves must be turned off at the appliance. **The yard line and inside piping system must be tested in every case.** For medium pressure commercial tests regulators must be removed or isolated and **both high side and low side must be tested**
4. Correct any dangerous conditions present at gas appliances. Some examples are listed below.
 - a. Copper gas lines or gas connectors must be replaced with approved gas connectors. Approved connectors will be identified with the CSA u.s. mark.

No flexible gas connector may enter the housing cabinet of a furnace. Rigid black pipe must be installed through the housing and inside the furnace. The final connection outside the housing may be made with an approved flex connector.

- b. All flue vents must be in sound condition, not disconnected, pulled apart or dropped below roof deck. No single wall metal pipe will be permitted to extend

through the attic. Make sure you have at least 1" clearance to combustible materials for double wall vent and 6" clearance for single wall vent.

- c. Any unvented gas heater or decorative appliance not equipped with an approved oxygen depletion sensor must be removed and supply valve removed or permanently capped. The most common example of an unapproved appliance is the ceramic bathroom heater.
- d. Any closet in which gas burning appliances are installed must have a source of fresh air (combustion air) supplied to the closet. Many closets will have a screened vent at the closet ceiling. Make sure this vent is not blocked with insulation or dust. Fine mesh screens should be removed to prevent future clogging.

Note: appliances are not required to be brought up to all current Code requirements but any hazardous condition must be corrected before gas test will be approved. The above items do not constitute a complete list of hazardous conditions, but the most common ones found.

When do I call for inspection?

Call 337-828-6303 **After**

- a. Permit is obtained.
- b. Any hazardous situation is corrected.
- c. Gas test is holding pressure with no visible drop for a bare minimum of 15 minutes. (A tight system should hold pressure for much longer than this). Large commercial systems may require longer test duration.
- d. An adult is present to allow entry inside building to inspector.

What's Next?

If inspection is approved, the Plumbing inspector will contact the gas company and give approval to restore service. The customer will also need to contact the gas company customer service to request restoration of service. The gas company will let you know when you can expect service to be turned on. Note: The gas company may require that the test gauge be removed, the meter be reconnected and any open pipe trenches be filled before they will turn gas on.

If inspection is not approved, a list of needed corrections will be provided by the Plumbing Inspector. Once corrections are made, call for re-inspection as above.