

Protecting natural gas equipment from a flood

Tips for those who live in areas subject to flooding



Did you know
Service and repair work on natural gas equipment should only be performed by a licensed heating contractor

What to do before a flood

If you have enough advance warning prior to a flood, you can protect your appliances by:

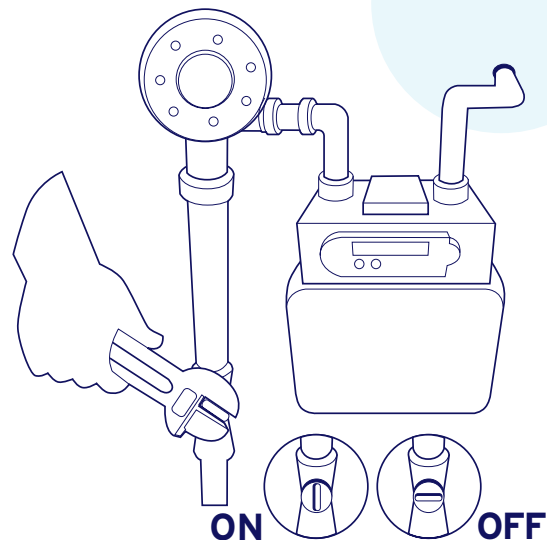
- Having a licensed heating contractor remove the electric motor, burner and controls from furnace, and shut off the gas and electric supply.
- Having a licensed heating contractor remove hot water tanks, clothes dryers and ranges from your building, and cap and properly thread seal the gas pipe leading to the appliance shut off valve. This is to prevent the back flow of flood water into the gas piping system. If you have natural gas clothes dryers, ranges and other appliances removed, ensure the gas supply valve is shut off to the appliance first.

If you don't have enough time or a licensed contractor is not available:

- Turn off electrical power to each appliance and leave it off.
- Shut off the gas supply valve to the appliance (usually found on the gas line to the appliance).
- Do not drain hot water tanks—just shut off the water leading to and from the tank.

If you are evacuating your premises

Shut off your gas valve at the meter. You can turn your gas off at the main shut-off valve on the inlet pipe next to your gas meter. Using a wrench or other suitable tool, give the valve a quarter turn in either direction so that it is crosswise to the pipe.



What to do after a flood

If water levels were high enough to cover the gas meter, call Terasen Gas to check your meter and regulator before using your gas system. Flood waters may have shifted your home or caused other stresses to the gas piping.

CAUTION: If you smell gas, or if there is evidence of a gas leak, don't enter the building. Turn your gas off at the main shut-off valve on the inlet pipe next to your gas meter. Using a wrench or other suitable tool, give the valve a quarter turn in either direction so that it is crosswise to the pipe. See diagram. Call our 24-hour emergency line at 1-800-663-9911, your local fire department or 911.

All electrical wiring in buildings that have been partially or fully covered by flood water must be checked by a qualified electrician or electrical inspector before being put into service again. Wet electrical wiring is extremely dangerous, so make sure the main electrical supply is shut off. Any loose wires should be considered "live" and a definite hazard.

Always call a licensed heating contractor

Don't try to put natural gas appliances back in service yourself. Gas appliances that have been flooded should not be used until inspected by a licensed heating contractor. A licensed heating contractor will check, clean, repair and pressure test all gas pipes that have been clogged with mud or debris. Switches, controls, thermostats, furnace heat exchangers, burner and pilot parts and rusting metal parts can also be damaged. Please note, the cost of restoring some appliances to a safe operating condition can exceed the cost of a new appliance.

Other helpful brochures

At home: your guide to Terasen Gas

A guide to the services we offer, plus smart tips to help you make your home more comfortable, save energy and money, and plan for emergencies.

Hot tips: energy conservation booklet

Practical, simple things you can do to save money in just about every room in your home. Not only will you conserve cash, but you'll also conserve energy. Good for you – good for the environment.

Visit www.terasengas.com for your free download of both brochures.

For more information

For more information on flood safety, contact the Provincial Emergency Program in your region, or visit www.pep.bc.ca. For more information about natural gas safety, visit www.terasengas.com or call us at 1-888-224-2710. The BC Safety Authority web site also contains useful information. Visit www.safetyauthority.ca

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