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Information on Gas Pressure Tests

FUEL GAS PIPING INSTALLATION AND INSPECTIONS SHALL MEET REQUIREMENTS OF Chapter 12 of the 2001 California Plumbing Code based on the 2000 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE by I.A.P.M.O.

1. Upon completion of the installation, alteration or repair of any gas piping, the Building Inspection Division shall be notified that it is ready for inspection.
 - a) No gas piping shall be installed in or on the ground under any building or structure unless installed in gastight conduit, and all exposed gas piping shall be kept at least six (6) inches above grade or structure. The conduit shall be of material approved for installation underground beneath buildings and not less than one-half (1/2) inch larger than the outside diameter of the gas piping. The conduit shall extend to a point at least twelve (12) inches beyond any area where it is required to be installed or to the outside wall of a building, and the outer ends shall not be sealed. Where the conduit terminates within a building, it shall be readily accessible and the space between the conduit and the gas piping shall be sealed to prevent leakage of gas into the building. Concealed unprotected gas piping may be installed above grade in approved recesses or channels.
 - b) Ferrous gas piping installed underground in exterior locations shall be protected from corrosion by approved coatings or wrapping materials. All horizontal metallic piping shall have at least twelve (12) inches of earth cover. Underground ferrous gas piping shall be electrically isolated from the rest of the gas system with listed or approved isolation fittings installed a minimum of six (6) inches above grade.
 - c) Approved plastic gas piping shall have at least eighteen (18) inches of earth cover. Risers shall be metallic and shall be wrapped or coated to a point at least six (6) inches above grade. **(NOTE: Plastic gas piping is only approved for underground installation and shall be installed with a continuous #18 AWG yellow 0.040 diameter copper tracer wire that is installed with and attached to underground non-metallic gas piping and extends above grade at both ends).** When a riser connects underground to plastic pipe, the underground horizontal metallic portion of the riser shall extend at least thirty (30) inches (0.8 m) before connecting to the plastic pipe by means of an approved transition fitting or adapter. **Exception:** Listed one-piece ninety (90) degree transition fittings or risers may have less than thirty (30) inches (0.8 m) of horizontal metallic piping.
2. All new gas piping, alteration or repair requires a pressure test inspection. The piping pressure test shall stand a pressure of not less than ten (10) pounds per square inch gauge pressure. The test pressure shall be held for a length of time satisfactory to the administrative authority, but in no case for less than fifteen (15) minutes, with no perceptible drop in pressure. (For welded piping and higher gas pressures, the test pressure shall be not less than 60 lbs.).
3. All shut-off valves are required to be disconnected and properly capped-off prior to filling system with air pressure. Also the gas meter shall always be disconnected if you know that air pressure will be introduced into the line going back to the meter. (If you do not disconnect the meter, there is a great possibility that you may damage the equipment). **If you have any other questions about your gas meter, contact PG&E.**

The City does not provide any pressure gauges, ladders, air pumps or any other apparatus required for inspection or pressure testing. All necessary apparatus for conducting air pressure tests shall be furnished by the permit holder.