



Building Services
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane WA 99201-3343
(509) 625-6300

ME-16
Gas Piping
Guidelines for
Homeowners

1. Homeowners may do their own gas piping, but must have a licensed gas fitter on site for the initial appliance light-off.
2. All branch lines shall be taken off the side or top of the main gas pipe and not from the bottom.
3. Each appliance drop shall have a drip tee below the horizontal gas line into the appliance. The drip tee shall consist of a tee with a minimum 4-inch long nipple with cap on the lower leg of the tee.
4. A gas appliance shut-off valve must be installed within 3 feet of the appliance, and between the gas meter and the appliance union.
5. A 10-pound air test (witnessed by the mechanical inspector) is required for all new gas piping, and for any gas piping that has been disconnected or shut off for 12 months or more. The 10-pound air test shall test the gas piping from a cap or gauge (maximum 30 PSI gauge with 1-pound increments) located next to the gas meter or the union at the gas appliance.

(DO NOT TEST THROUGH THE GAS METER OR THROUGH THE APPLIANCE GAS VALVE!)

6. Gas piping must be bonded with minimum #6 copper wire to a metallic cold water pipe or the Neutral bar in the electric service panel.
7. After the air test has been passed, the gas meter will not be unlocked until a licensed gas fitter (Avista or heating contractor) is on the job site to complete the initial appliance light-off.
8. Contact a heating contractor for a licensed gas fitter to light-off the appliance.

After making an appointment with a heating contractor, call the mechanical inspector the following morning between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. to advise him/her of the appointment with the licensed gas fitter. The inspector will try to make the appointment time to unlock the meter and perform the final inspection.