Choosing the best meter location
A multi-unit development guide

St Croix Gas

Individual meters at front

This traditional option is still available, but use is declining as code requiring more vents and air intakes often conflict with homeowner demands for clutter-free entrances that look clean and beautiful. Cost to the builder is also a factor. When the only option is to install individual meters on the fronts of the garages, building codes require that concrete-filled guard posts be installed at the builder's expense. See Figure 1.

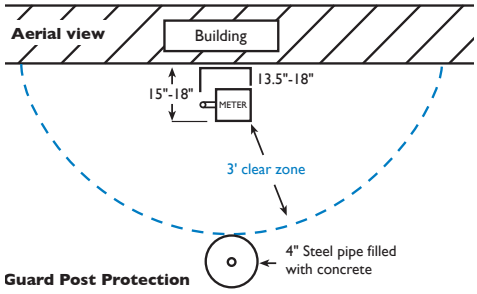


Figure 1 – When individual meters are set on the fronts of the garages or anywhere they can be subject to damage from vehicles, codes require guard posts be installed for protection.

Banked meters

Placing multiple meters together (a "bank" of meters) on a side wall can cost effectively give a building a clean, clutter-free exterior. See Figure 2.

NOTES: Meter banks require direct access for gas utility personnel and cannot be fully enclosed without adding proper direct ventilation. Also, depending on building type, public utility easement verbiage may need to be added to Association Documents to allow for one service line to service multiple meters and for internal piping to cross ownership lines.

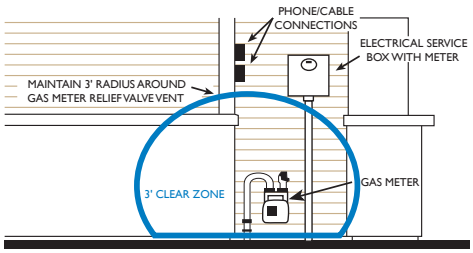
Figure 2 – A meter bank allows meters to be placed on a sidewall and hidden from the street. Meter banks can easily be hidden with landscaping or fencing to help offer more curb appeal.

Meter alcoves

This option allows individual meters to be set and hidden from the street. Because meter alcoves meet aesthetic needs as well as simplify utility coordination for the builder or developer, this has become an increasingly popular option. (Ask about convenient Joint Trench Utility Installation.)

Note code requirements for meter alcoves. See Figure 3

1. Alcove must be at least 6' wide and be deep enough to set both gas and electric meters (minimum 12").
2. Must maintain the minimum clearance of 3' between the meter relief vent and the electric meter.
3. Floor must be dirt to allow access to underground piping.



The 3' clear zone is measured from the meter relief valve vent.

Figure 3 – Hiding meters in an alcove helps maintain an aesthetically pleasing exterior while still allowing utility workers full access to the meters. No additional ventilation is required.

Maintaining an aesthetically appealing exterior is critical for builders and developers of multi-unit developments, where a buyer's decision between similar units can come down to curb appeal. By offering meter placement options beyond traditional individual meters, St. Croix Gas helps builders and developers add value to their buildings. Be sure to ask your St. Croix Gas representative about the following options.

For more information, or to request service call 715-425-6177 StCroixGas.com