

**Building services**

**PART  
1**

# **GAS**

**How to connect  
Gas Services on site?**

## Details required to arrange Gas Supply on site:

- Site location
- Property's owner details
- Plans for development, other plans
- Location where the gas meter will be positioned at the property
- Distance in meters from the gas meter to the property boundary

Whether there is a third party involved - connection through the private land

**Starting from this issue we will publish comprehensive advice on the building services supply including gas, electricity, water, drainage and ventilation. Part 1. is about the gas services.**

The process of connecting gas on site is pretty straightforward. As long as there are plans for the proposed building or building extension and the planning permission is likely or it is granted, the gas distribution company in the area will be able to provide the quotation on how the gas connection and on the installation of the gas meter box.

The supply of the gas will be capped off until the qualified gas engineer has carried out the assessment of the work and until the meter is installed by the chosen gas supplier. Usually, the gas distributor will dig trenches up to 2 meters from the house, lay down pipes, supply and fit a suitable meter box and then fill the trenches. If required all digging on site must be done by the client. It is worth to mention that gas pipes are always yellow to distinguish them from other services. When all connections are prepared, the chosen gas supplier will connect the services.

Obviously, the connection to gas is dependent on the availability of supply in the area. If it is the virgin plot or on the outskirts of larger town, then there are alternative sources like oil, LPG, and electric heat pumps. However, gas is still the most cost-effective fuel type and is more eco-friendly than other fossil fuels.

Currently, gas is offered in the package with electricity. Since the privatization of the National Grid there are various providers within eight Gas Distribution Networks (GDN):

- National Grid Gas Distribution- West Midlands, north west of England, north London
- Northern Gas Networks- England, Yorkshire, Cumbria
- Wales & West Utilities- Wales & south-west England
- SGN - Scotland and Southern England

The quotation will vary depending on site conditions and location, but, in urban areas, the cost of gas connection will be approximately between £350-£500. In the suburb areas, it might reach £2,000. The current waiting time for the gas connection depends on the area but varies between 6 to 12 weeks from the date of the contract.





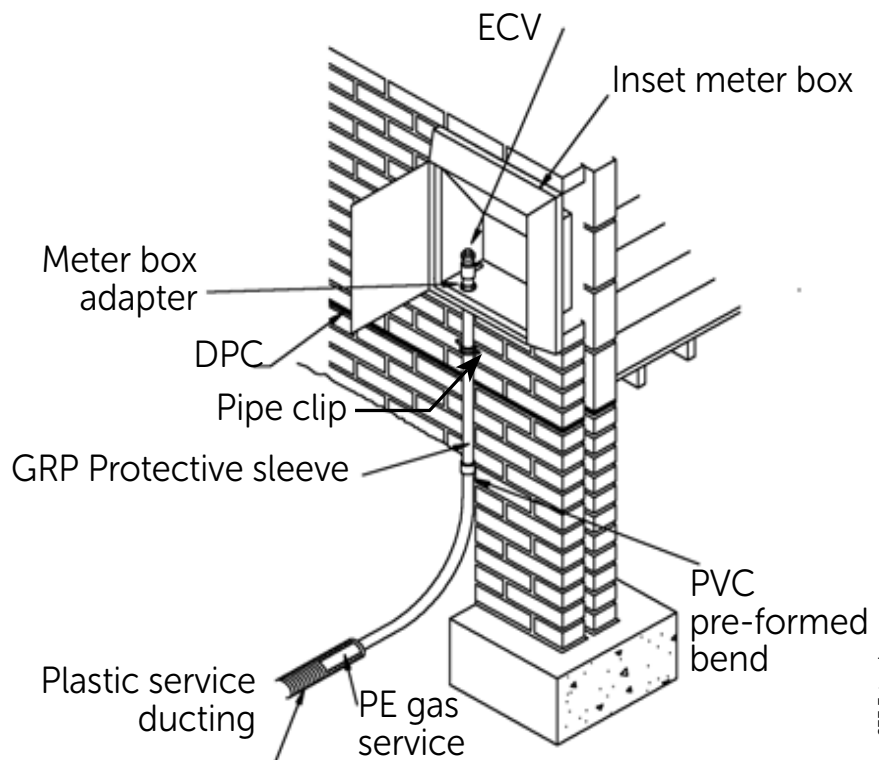
Companies that supply gas are different than those who distribute it through the network. British Gas, EDF Energy, npower, EOn, Scottish Power, SSE are the leading suppliers, but there are also smaller independent companies on the market. The provider you choose will install your meter.

Some providers offer free or discounted gas connections. Check here if your area or if your circumstances qualify: [www.affordablewarmthsolutions.org.uk](http://www.affordablewarmthsolutions.org.uk). Please note that businesses and commercial projects are not eligible for free connections.

The gas service should be of the appropriate scale to the domestic use. The gas main is connected by the service pipe to the meter, which might be of various types:

- built in to the external wall
- Surface mounted on the external wall
- Semi-concealed- sunk in the ground adjacent to the outer wall
- Individual, purpose-made in accordance to the Building Standards

For built in meters to the external leaf of wall, the size of the required opening is 450mm wide x 530mm high. The gas main is minimum 375mm below ground level surface. Pipes in mastic sealed duct connect gas meter with the appliances.



*New gas service to cavity wall meter box (reproduced courtesy of IGEM).*