
# Meter Box Location Guide
# September 2008

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## About Us

WA Gas Networks is the owner and operator of the gas distribution network and is referred to as the Network Operator in this guide.

WestNet Energy manages the gas distribution network and acts on behalf of the Network Operator.

For more information call 13 13 56 or visit www.wagn.com.au

## Important tips to help you get the job done

As the professional person responsible for installing a gas meter box, this information is designed to help you locate the meter box correctly and get the job done right first time.

The correct location of meter boxes is essential and the Network Operator will only connect a gas service to a meter box that is correctly positioned.

All installations must comply with relevant legislation designed to ensure that the gas meter is protected from damage and accessible in the event of an emergency.

Please take the time to refer to the regulations and guidelines outlined her before installing a meter box to ensure a hassle-free outcome for all concerned.

The following codes should also be referred to when positioning gas metre boxes:

*Gas Standards [Gas Fitting and Consumer Gas Installations] Regulations 1999*

*Australian Standard, Gas Installations AS5601- Current Version*

We hope you find the following information helpful.

## Points to remember before you begin

- **Location, location, location** - Locating the meter box correctly is your number one consideration.
- **Gas availability and pressure** - Always check the availability of gas and the gas pressure available in the area as this may affect the pipe sizing of the consumer's installation.
- **Permission to lift paving** - The Network Operator must receive permission from the customer if it is necessary to break or lift concrete, bitumen or paving bricks to connect gas to the meter box. In these cases the customer must accept the reinstatement costs and it is the gasfitter's responsibility to inform them of this. Note: To ensure there is not delay in installing the gas service, it is the gasfitter's responsibility to instruct the customer to leave a letter in the gas meter box agreeing to these conditions.
- **Strata title property permission** - Before starting work on strata titled properties, check to ensure that the works can proceed by calling the nominated gas retailer. Work cannot proceed until the Network Operator has received permission and acceptance of reinstatement costs from the body corporate.
- **Special conditions in the Perth Hills -** Special conditions apply to the location of meter boxes in the Perth Hills area where natural gas is available. Because of the terrain in these areas, the meter box must be located on the front boundary of the property, unless an open trench is provided.
- **When to lodge a connection request -** The meter box must be physically installed before a connection request for a gas service can be submitted. Failure to do so will result in a delay of the connection.

## General requirements

### 1. Location on buildings

The customer may request that the gas meter box be located in a position that does not comply with these guidelines. However the gasfitter must comply with the Network Operator guidelines and it is the gasfitter's responsibility to ensure they are met.

Except on corner blocks, which are covered separately in this document, meter boxes must be located on the principal frontage of a building, and where practical within one metre of a front corner of that building; unless approval is obtained with the Network Operator. This is indicated as Dimension B on the diagrams to follow.

### 2. Accessibility

A gas meter box must be accessible at all times for:

[a] Emergency shut-off

[b] Maintenance

[c] Meter reading

[d] Inspection

A 600mm clearance must be maintained in front of the meter box for maintenance purposes.

### 3. A gas meter box may be:

[a] Recessed – see Notes 1[a] and 1[b]

[b] Fixed to an exterior wall – see Note 1

[c] Mounted on a meter box stand

**Note 1:**

[a] If a meter box is to be partially recessed into a wall, it should protrude not less than 125mm from the face brickwork to facilitate connection an maintenance. See diagrams for more detail.

[b] If a meter box is to be fully recessed into a wall, the Network Operator may grant specific approval if certain requirements are met with regard to the installation of the box. See diagrams for details and conditions.

**Note 2:**

A meter box may be fixed to an exterior wall:

[a] Of masonry.

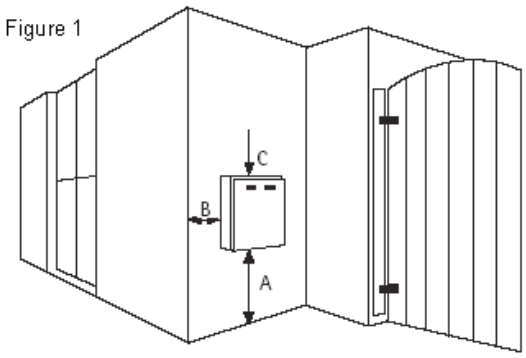
[b] On a cladded wall provided it is suitably fixed to the framework underneath the cladding.

**A gas meter box may not be installed:**

- On a fence, unless constructed of masonry.
  [Note: Local council by-laws may prohibit fixing to a neighbouring boundary fence.]
- On limestone walls. [Note: This does not apply to reconstituted limestone walls.]
- In a carport, or in any other location where it may be struck by vehicular traffic.
- In a position where any part of the gas service to supply the meter box has to pass under any part of a building, ie. carport, garage, etc.
- In any other situation where there is an obstruction to maintaining or reading the meter.

**The following diagrams are a guide to meter box locations:**

## Figure 1: Standard Residential Gas Only Meter Box [Partially Recessed]

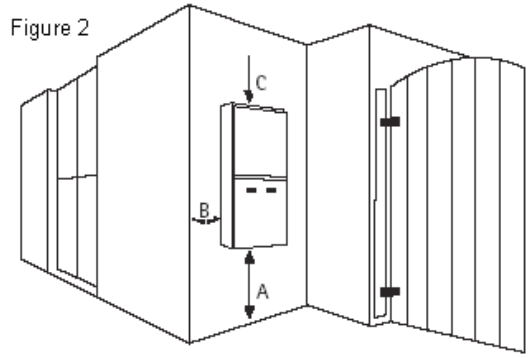



**Dimension A** should be no less than 200mm and no greater than 1500mm.

**Dimension B** should not exceed 1000mm.

**Dimension C** should be no less than 125mm from the face brickwork if the box is recessed from the wall.

## Figure 2: Combined Gas/Electric Meter Box [Partially Recessed]

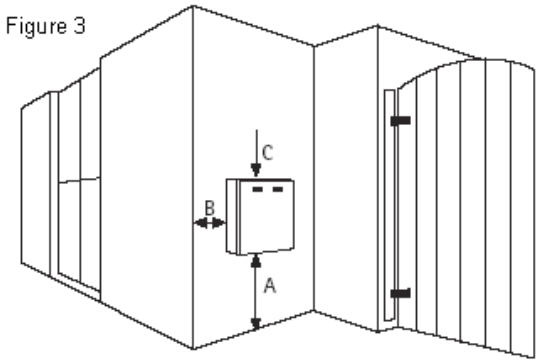



**Dimension A** should be no less than 600mm and no greater than 760mm.

**Dimension B** should not exceed 1000mm.

**Dimension C** should be 125mm from the face brickwork if the box is recessed into a wall.

## Figure 3: AL 12 Meter Box




**Dimension A** should be not less than 300mm and no greater than 1000mm.

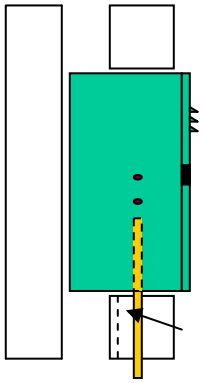
**Dimension B** should not exceed 1000mm

**Dimension C** should be 350mm or no less than 255mm from the face brickwork if the box is partially recessed into a wall.

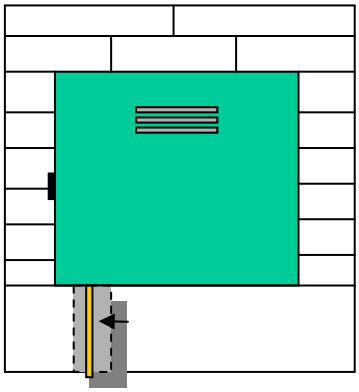
## Figure 4: Fully Recessed Gas Meter Box

There are instances where a meter box is to be fully recessed into a wall. The requirements are shown below and no deviation from these requirements will be allowed. The example below shows a fully recessed gas meter box, with a panel fitted to enclose the riser.

Note: The riser to the meter box must be permanently accessible for maintenance purposes.

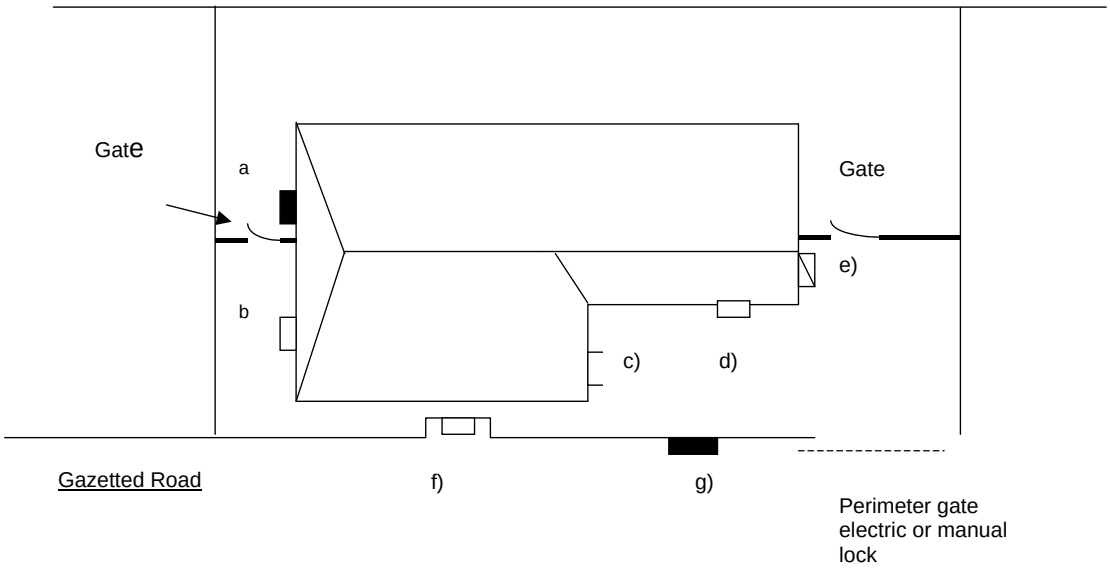


**Note:** If the channel cut for the gas service riser *enters the building cavity*, then the cavity **must be sealed** to the satisfaction of the Network Operator.



The channel cut out in the wall for the pipe must not be plastered over. If it must be covered, a removable panel to ground level must be installed to cover it.

## Figure 5: House with Perimeter Fence and Locked Gate




[a] Position not acceptable as gate is installed to lock off back garden

[b] **Position acceptable**

[c] **Position acceptable**

[d] **Position acceptable**

[e] Position not acceptable unless adequately protected from vehicle damage [ie bollard].

[f] **Position acceptable**

[g] Position unacceptable. Council by-laws generally prohibit any part of the meter box to protrude into the road reserve [even if partially recessed].

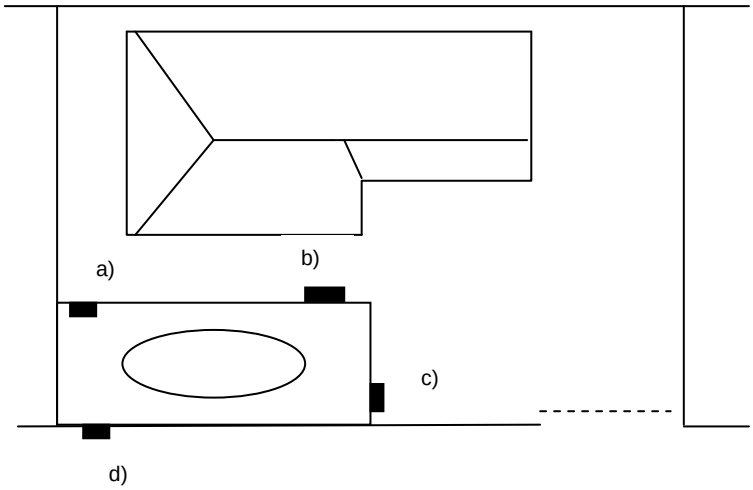
**Note:** If a perimeter gate is to be locked,

[a] Electric gate: This must be of a type that can be operated by using a code. The customer must be willing to submit this code to the Network Operator to allow access for maintenance, meter reading or emergency purposes.

[b] Manually locked gate: If the gate is to be locked, than a West Australian Services [WAS] lock must be fitted.

If there is to be no access granted, then the meter must be recessed into the front wall in an alcove – Position [f].

## Figure 6: House with Screen Wall and Pool

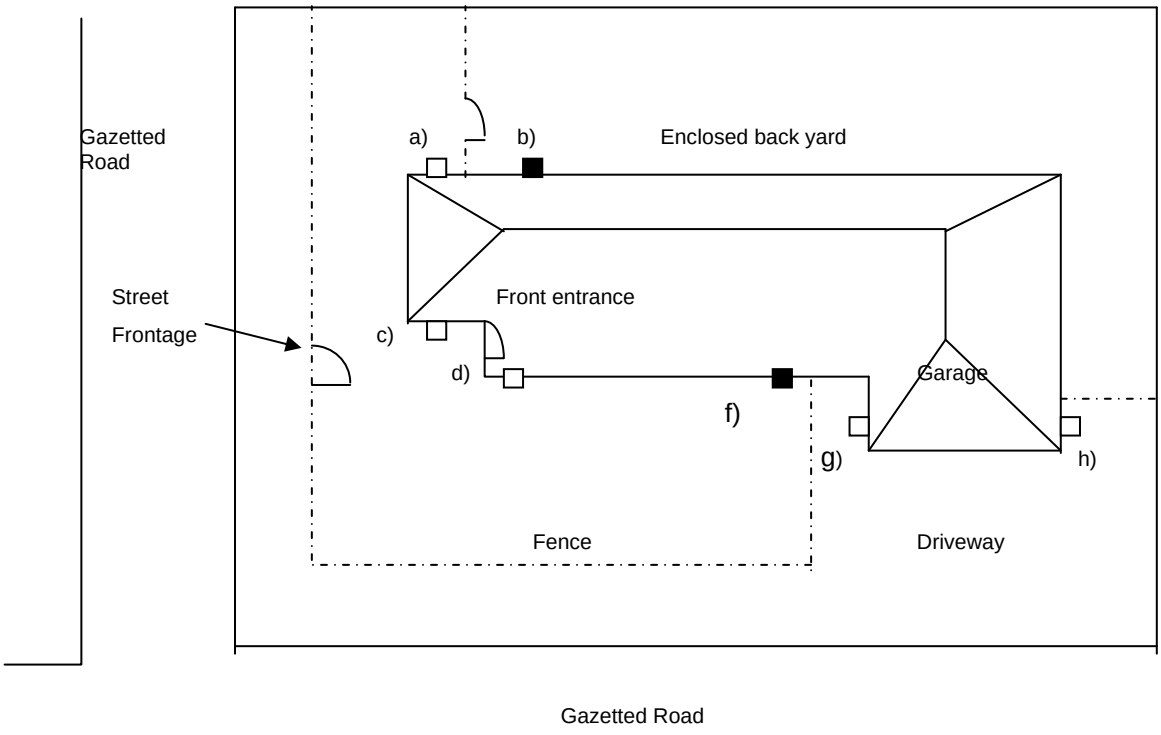



[a] Position unacceptable inside pool enclosure.

[b] + [c] Positions unacceptable because meter box can be used to gain access into pool enclosure [Council by-laws].

**Note:** Position [d] is also unacceptable. Council by-laws generally prohibit any part of the meter box to protrude into the road reserve.

## Figure 7: Corner Block




Positions [a], [c], [d], [g] and [h] are acceptable.

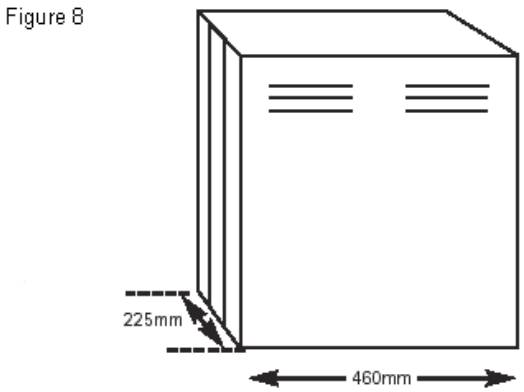
Positions [b] and [f] are not acceptable.

**Note:** On corner blocks, unhindered access must be given to facilitate emergency access, reading and maintenance activities.

## Meter Box Dimensions

### Figure 8: Single Residential Gas Meter Box

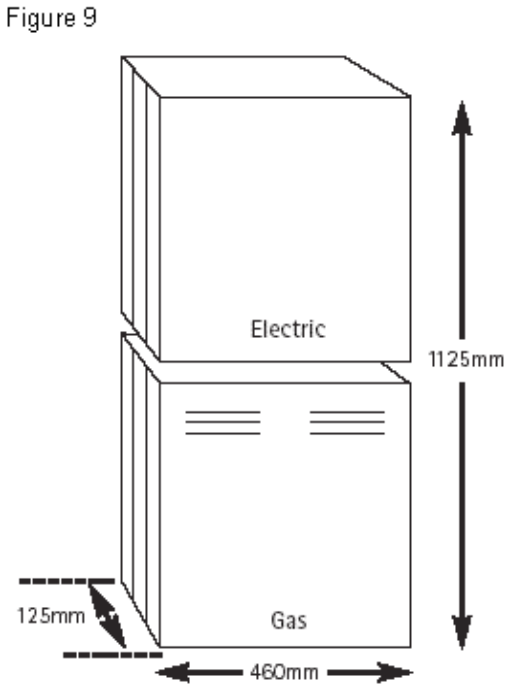
125mm if partially recessed into brick wall.




This single box can be recessed into brickwork as described earlier. The box is two standard bricks wide by six courses high.

### Figure 9: Dual Gas/Electric Meter Box

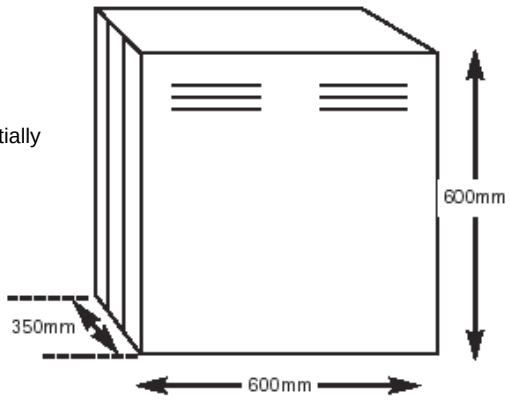
125mm if partially recessed into brick wall.




Dual Gas/Electricity meter boxes are usually built into new homes, or when large additions are planned. This is the preferred option but not a regulatory requirement and a separate single box may also be installed if required.

### Figure 10: AL 12 Meter Box

255mm if partially recessed into brick wall




The AL12 meter box is usually fitted on small commercial installations but is now seen more often in larger homes where many appliances are installed.

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