

# Fixing of gas consumer piping to a fence

## Gas Bulletin #20

Issued February 2023

The OTR is often asked if it is permitted to run gas service pipes along a fence from a meter to a house or appliance to save the labour and the cost of digging it into the ground.

**The answer is no.**

The AS/NZS 5601.1:2022 Gas Installations Clause 5.3.1 Note 2 specifically prohibits this unless the fence is of masonry construction in good order.

### 5.3 LOCATION OF CONSUMER PIPING

#### 5.3.1 Prohibited locations

Extract: Consumer piping shall not be installed in the following location:

- (a) Attached to a fence.

There are several reasons for this.

- A fence between two properties is regarded as common property and could be subject to dispute, especially in some older areas where the fence lines may not have been surveyed properly and may encroach on the neighbour's land.
- The fence could be, or, in time, become, in a state of disrepair and the gas pipe work may be at risk and need to be relocated to prevent damage.
- A fence between properties could be adjacent to the driveway to one or both houses; this always has the potential for vehicular damage to the fence, causing a gas escape from any attached pipe work.
- There is always the possibility of a neighbour, causing damage by drilling into the fence, or wishing to replace the existing fence etc.
- Local authorities (councils) may have their own building code requirements, prohibiting the use of common property fences for such use.

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So what are the alternatives if the installation is difficult because of rocky ground or other factors?

The OTR will accept the fixing of a gas outlet pipe to a masonry wall being used as a fence. This wall could be part of the neighbouring house or commercial premises or a concrete retaining wall or a properly laid concrete strip fence foundation. *This however would need to be substantial, solid and high enough to saddle the pipe-work at a height of 50mm above the finished ground level (Clause 5.3.7).*

Another alternative is to fix bollards or stand off brackets into the ground and saddle the pipe-work so that at the required ground clearance and support spacing for the size and type of pipe is achieved.  
See Clause 5.8.2 table 5.8.2 - Spacing of supporting devices.

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