

Vapour barriers to achieve clearance between existing Gas Meters and Split Cycle A/C compressors

Gas Bulletin #45

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Responsibility for the Location of a Gas Meter

The location of all billing meters is the responsibility of APA Group (Network Operator / Gas Supplier, Ph 1300 001 001). Exclusion zones apply around billing meters to ensure that potential gas leakage cannot ignite and burn.

There are occasions where electrical equipment is unwittingly installed within exclusion zones for gas meters by third parties. Where APA identifies this, you may be asked to have the situation rectified.

The preferred action is to relocate all offending equipment out of the hazardous exclusion zone.

The minimum clearance set by the Gas Network Operator is 500 mm. This may however not always be possible due to site based physical distance constraints.

In these situations, it may be possible to install a physical **vapour barrier** so that the distance between the meter box and the A/C compressor exceeds 500 mm from the nearest part of the gas wall box to the Split Cycle A/C compressor.

Vapour barriers must be made of a non-combustible partition that extends from the ground and wall out and upwards sufficiently to ensure that the most direct air path exceeds 500 mm in lineal length.

The size of a vapour barrier may vary from job to job depending on the separation distances between the gas wall box and equipment and their relative physical size.

Please see overleaf.

The following guide enables the determination of a vapour barrier size for individual site conditions.

1. Check with the Split Cycle A/C compressor manufacturer to ensure that the installation of a vapour barrier will not restrict air flow and thereby reduce its safety/efficiency.
2. Measure and cut a piece of string to 600 mm length. (See A in Figure 1)
3. Tape the string ends to the nearest front corners of both the gas wall box and A/C compressor. (See B in Figure 1)
4. Gently pull the string outwards, horizontally away from the wall at the midpoint between the gas wall box and A/C compressor unit and measure back to the wall from the string line to give you the width of the vapour barrier. (See C in Figure 1)
5. Now gently pull the string upwards, vertically at the midpoint above the gas wall box and A/C compressor and measure from the string line down to the ground to give you the height of the vapour barrier. (See D in Figure 1)

Note: the vapour barrier must be firmly secured in place, non-combustible and manufactured to be a close fit to the floor and rear wall.

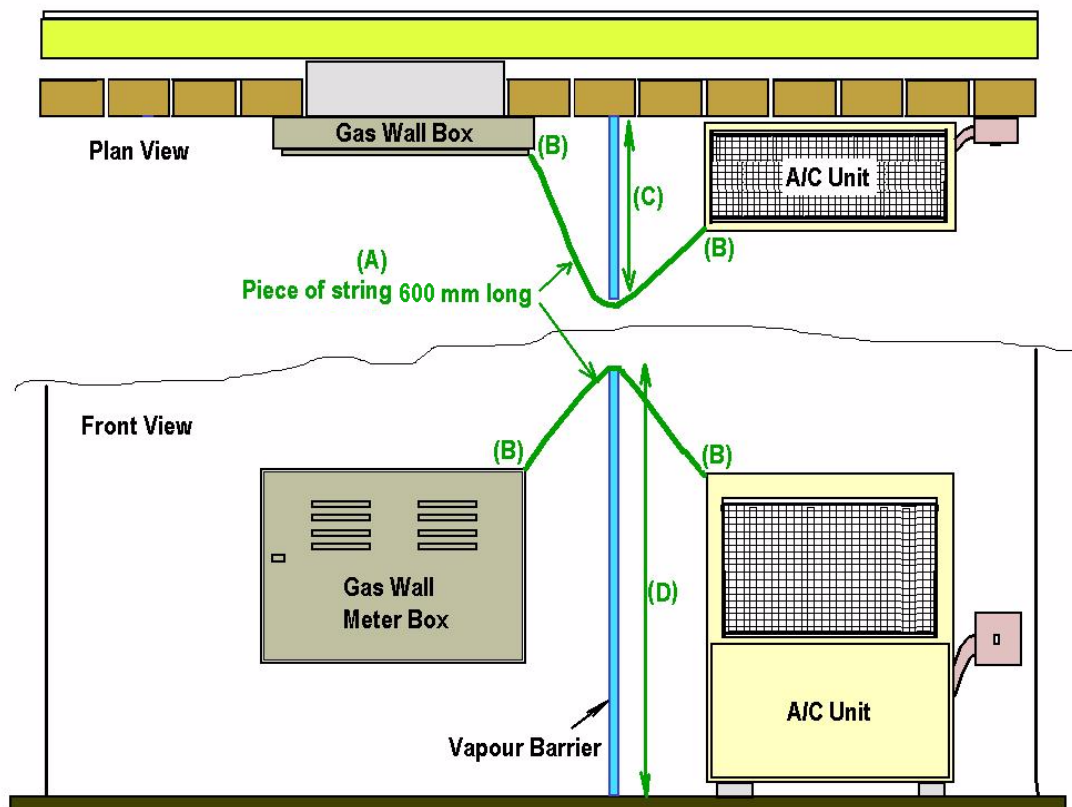


Figure 1

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