

GAS CONNECTOR WARNING

Gas connectors are corrugated metal tubes used to connect gas appliances to fuel gas supply pipes. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, certain older gas connectors may be dangerous. These older brass connectors have a serious flaw in how their tubing was joined to their end pieces. Over time, the end pieces can separate from the tubing and cause a serious natural gas leak, explosion or fire. While these dangerous uncoated brass connectors have not been made for more than 20 years, many of them are still in use. And the possibility of failure still exists. The older these connectors get, the greater the possibility of failure.

Unsafe, uncoated brass connector



Uncoated brass connectors should be replaced immediately.

Connectors can wear out from too much moving, bending, or corrosion. Moving the appliance, even slightly, whether to clean behind it or to inspect its gas connector, can cause the complete failure of one of these older weakened connectors and **possibly result in a deadly fire or explosion**. As a rule, you should replace the connectors whenever the appliance is replaced or moved from its location. Although not all uncoated connectors have this flaw, it is very difficult to tell which ones do. Therefore, any uncoated brass connector should be replaced immediately with a new plastic-coated brass connector or a new stainless steel connector.

Modern, stainless steel flex connector



Before you are faced with the possibility of a dangerous gas leak in your home, any brass gas connectors should be **replaced immediately** with stainless steel connectors. Gas appliances in your home that should be checked include:

- Range, oven or cooktop
- Clothes dryer
- Hot water heater
- Space heaters

Only a qualified professional should check or replace connectors. Do not move your appliance to check the connector! They can easily break if moved even slightly. For your safety, make sure a qualified professional performs the inspection and immediately replaces any uncoated brass connectors with stainless steel or plastic-coated connectors.

If you smell a strong odor of gas or hear a hissing sound:

- Leave your house immediately
- Do not use the telephone, cell phone, turn on lights, open windows or light a match
 - Go to a neighbor's house and call Emmetsburg Municipal Utilities at 712-852-2550 (office) or 712-480-2552 (on-call personnel)