The Gas Appliance

You’ve been called out to take care of a pest problem in a kitchen that has a gas range. Upon your arrival, you can see that the activity is on the wall near the gas range. In order to inspect this area, you need to see behind, beside, and underneath the range. Now what?

An inspection mirror and a good, bright flashlight are your best tools in this situation. You should never attempt to move a gas appliance from its position. You are unable to determine the length of the supply line, its condition, and its connection. In addition, even if the supply line is a newer flexible line, it is not designed to flex on a regular basis.

Most ranges are equipped with a bottom drawer or a panel that is completely removable. This will allow you safer access for inspection, clean out, and placement of product.

Below are some photos of gas line connectors that could cause issues if they are disturbed. These types of connectors were installed at least 20 years ago but many are still in use in older homes. Moving the appliance to see what kind of connector is in place can be all it takes to crack or break the connector and cause a dangerous gas leak.

FROM THE U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Some older corrugated metal tubes used to connect home appliances to natural gas supply pipes could corrode leading to a fire or explosion, according to Chairman Ann Brown of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). These connectors are used most often with gas ranges, ovens and clothes dryers.

"The CPSC has received 200 reports of these connectors failing," Brown said. "These failed connectors have been associated with 35 deaths and 59 injuries.

Moving an appliance, even slightly, if only to clean behind it, could cause a weakened connector to fail. These connectors are used most often with gas ranges, ovens and clothes dryers.

If you smell, gas or suspect a leak:

- Leave the building immediately and alert others to do so
- Do not light a match or lighter
- Do not use your phone; call the fire department and gas company from outside or from a neighbor’s phone
- Do not change the position of any light switches by moving them on or off
- Do not switch on any electrical appliances or equipment