

Health and Safety Information

Anglian Water Meter Chambers

Anglian Water meter chambers vary widely in terms of their location, size, depth and access/egress. As a result, there are a number of hazards that may be encountered when carrying out work in our chambers. Please also refer to section 4.6 of the Market Code Business terms with regards to accessing our assets.

Generally, the following hazards set out below exist and it is important to follow appropriate control measures to avoid and mitigate the risk of damage or injury that may arise from such hazards. Please read the following information carefully and ensure all control measures are used when operating within our meter chambers:

1. General location

The general location of our chambers will be at the boundary of our customer's property. The area around the chamber should be maintained; however, more often it is not. Growth of foliage may therefore be significant, obscuring uneven ground and holes. In certain instances, metal covers have been removed/stolen for scrap purposes. Please be aware of the possibility of uneven ground on and around our meter chambers and follow our advised control measures below

Control measures

- Appropriate PPE should always be worn, this includes high visibility clothing, gloves and boots (which should provide suitable ankle protection) and if necessary a hard hat. In summer months please also consider the potential for ticks and bugs which could be present in

long grass (lymes disease) and keep bare skin covered.

- On-going grounds maintenance should be carried out and any missing covers need to be reported to Anglian Water.

2. Chamber covers

Chamber covers will vary considerably in size, material and weight. As stated above, please be aware that metal covers have a scrap value and are frequently being 'removed'. Some of our chamber covers are very heavy and care should be taken when lifting. Please follow our advised control measures below when removing/replacing our chamber covers.

Control measures

- Ensure the provision of suitable lifting equipment /keys are at hand to remove and replace the chamber cover. This will ideally be a mechanical option for heavy covers Pry bars should be used to break the seal of corroded or difficult to remove covers.



Advised tools for the removal of chamber covers

- Ensure that the cover is in place and suitably seated in its rebate/fixing point when replaced.

Examples of typical chamber covers:



3. Entry into confined /enclosed spaces

Whilst most meter chambers are small and shallow, some may be large or deep and consideration needs to be given to the potential for low oxygen levels or a toxic gas atmosphere in the chamber. Please be aware of this and follow our advised control measures below.

Control Measures

- Personnel carrying out work in the chambers should have as a minimum, an awareness of confined spaces.
- Where a chamber is identified as a confined space, the Confined Space Regulations (1997) will need to be adhered to and only trained and

competent people with appropriate gas monitors may make an entry.

- Whilst this is unlikely to be an issue in most chambers should you have any doubts please contact Anglian Water for advice.
- What may be prevalent is deep and or stagnant water. Where flooding is an issue, water will need to be pumped from the chamber. Good hygiene practices will need to be adopted where stagnant water bodies exist. Meter chambers are frequently used as a deposit for sharps including used needles methods for awareness, safe retrieval and disposal is recommended.

4. Access and Egress

Consideration needs to be given to safe access and egress to and from chambers. This is of greater importance with deep and large meter chambers.

Control measures

- Portable or fixed ladders should be used in deep chambers, this will be of greater importance where there is a confined space.
- For frequently accessed chambers, provision of grab bars which assist safe access/egress should be considered.

If you have any queries about any of our health and safety information or you are unsure about any of the control measures set out above, then please contact our Wholesale Service Centre on

0345 026 5463 or by email at **wsc@anglianwater.co.uk**.

