

SPRING HAS SPRUNG



MINDFUL LANDSCAPING: AVOID SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS, STAY SAFE, & SAVE ENERGY!

Did you know you can protect your home from power outages and save money by strategically planning your property's landscaping? By choosing trees and shrubs carefully, and planting them in the right place, you can maximize your energy uptime and savings.

RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

There's actually a lot that goes into choosing the right tree and the right site—do you want a shade canopy for seasonal energy savings, or year-round color? How tall will the tree get? How fast will it grow? How much water, sun, and wind protection does it require? Is it disease resistant? You'll also need to choose a species and location that keeps the tree away from overhead and underground lines. Visit us online for a full guide to safe (and beautiful) landscaping!

EQUIPMENT CLEARANCE

Knowing where your electric and gas equipment is on your property is important. Please keep shrubs, fences and structures a safe distance away from transformers. Plants have to be at least 10 feet from the front side and three feet from the other sides of the transformers.

continued on back...

continued from front...

DIG SAFE



Whether you are planting a new garden or putting in a fence, first consider what's under your feet. A whole network of utility lines and pipes run underground delivering water, power, natural gas, and other services to your area. A rupture to any of these pipes could be very costly and potentially dangerous.

Make sure to call Dig Safe at 8-1-1 at least three working days before breaking ground. Dig Safe contacts your local utilities and notifies them to mark where the underground lines and pipes run around your project zone.



SLAYING THE ENERGY VAMPIRES

Standby power goes by many names—ghost power, vampire power, and phantom load to name a few—but what is this monster, exactly? It's the electricity consumed by appliances and electronics that are turned off, or in standby mode.

If you want to be a real hero, save energy AND protect your wallet, it's time for a little ghost busting! Try these tips:

- ✓ Unplug the charger from the wall when the device reaches a full charge.
- ✓ Set up a charging station in your home, where all the frequently used chargers are plugged into a single power strip.
- ✓ Check your appliance manuals to see if there's a "power save" mode that will turn off unnecessary displays when the device is not in use.
- ✓ Opt out of features you don't really need—if you're unlikely to set the timer on your coffee maker, a model without that option will cost less to purchase and save on your electricity bill.
- ✓ When you're finished watching TV, be sure to turn off not just the TV itself but the peripherals as well (DVD player, speaker system, set-top box, etc.).
- ✓ Today's desktop computers use very little power in "sleep" mode, so be sure to adjust your settings to allow it to doze when not in use for a specific period of time.



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STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR BILL?

There are agencies ready to determine what financial assistance you may qualify for:

- Call 211, a special hotline managed by United Way
- Call your local Community Action Agency
- Participation in a variety of programs might make you eligible for the Unitil discount rate on future bills

Have a past due balance? Anytime, day or night, you can make a payment or request a payment plan by:

Using our automated phone system by calling 1-888-301-7700

- Make a payment
- Request a payment plan

Logging into our convenient website
MYACCOUNT.UNITIL.COM/IWR/USER/LOGIN.SEAM

- Make a payment
- Request a payment plan
- Enroll in our automatic draft UniPay program



General Customer Service Inquiries

CALL US: 1-888-301-7700

You can also contact us online. Fill out our online form and we'll respond to your request as soon as possible. Visit us at: UNITIL.COM/CONTACT

