

GET READY FOR AUTUMN



COOL WEATHER TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

Making our homes comfortable for the cooler weather requires just a bit of extra preparation — the right strategies will not only help you and your family stay cozy, they will save you energy and money all through the fall and winter months.

HEATING STRATEGIES

Heating your home uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42% of your utility bill. Here are some simple things you can do to reduce costs and keep comfortable:

- ⤷ Set your programmable thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and lower the setpoint when you're sleeping or away from home.
- ⤷ Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as recommended.
- ⤷ Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
- ⤷ Eliminate trapped air from hot-water radiators once or twice a season; if unsure about how to perform this task, contact a professional.
- ⤷ Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.
- ⤷ Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.
- ⤷ During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

continued on pg. 3...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Emergency Storm Kit

SAFETY FIRST.....2

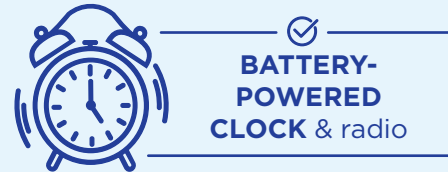
MY UNITIL3

JUST FOR KIDS.....4

EMERGENCY STORM KIT

September is National Preparedness Month! Do you have a storm kit? Putting one together now before you need it is a great way to prepare now for coming storms. A storm kit should contain key items that will be essential during a power outage.

Keep the following items in one easy-to-grab bag or box:



For more preparedness tips and information visit Unitol's Outage Center at unitil.com/outage-center

NATURAL GAS SAFETY TIPS

Like all sources of energy, natural gas should be used wisely and treated with respect. Here are a few household reminders to help ensure that you and your family safely enjoy all the benefits natural gas has to offer:

- ⦿ Some baths and showers can be way too hot, especially for the little ones, so be sure to keep your water heater temperature setting between 115-120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ⦿ Keep appliances clean and flammable materials away from their heat sources. Never store flammable liquids near a stove or furnace and never clean your natural gas appliances with gasoline.
- ⦿ Never hang or lean items on gas pipes. Get regular inspections of your gas equipment and appliances to keep them safe and reliable.

Remember, safety puts people first. And a cared-for gas system keeps your home comfy and cozy, and your showers at just the right temperature!



...continued from pg. 1

INSULATION TIPS

Unfortunately, all the heating strategies in the world won't help much if your house is too drafty. Something as simple as adding weather stripping to your doors and windows can save you some money on your energy bill. Getting a professional inspection is a great way to form a whole-house strategy for weather sealing and insulation, but you can also do a thorough visual inspection yourself to see if you can locate sources of drafts:

On the outside of your house, inspect all areas where two different building materials meet, including:

- ⦿ All exterior corners
- ⦿ Outdoor water faucets
- ⦿ Where siding and chimneys meet
- ⦿ Areas where the foundation and the bottom of exterior brick or siding meet.

Inside your home, inspect around the following areas for any cracks and gaps that could cause air leaks:

- ⦿ Electrical outlets & switch plates
- ⦿ Door and window frames
- ⦿ Electrical and gas service entrances
- ⦿ Baseboards
- ⦿ Weather stripping around doors
- ⦿ Fireplace dampers
- ⦿ Attic hatches
- ⦿ Wall- or window-mounted air conditioners.
- ⦿ Cable TV and phone lines
- ⦿ Where dryer vents pass through walls
- ⦿ Vents and fans.

You'll be pleasantly surprised how easy it is to make a dramatic difference in your energy costs by sealing up that cold air in drafty areas of the house. For windows, use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Even heavy drapes can make a real difference!

ASK ABOUT OUR DISCOUNT PROGRAM!

Did you know that depending on the size of your family and your combined gross annual income, you may be eligible to receive a discounted rate for your gas and electric service from Unitol? You may qualify for the Discount Rate Program if you meet the following criteria:

- ⦿ Your household income does not exceed 60% of state median income level
- ⦿ You are a residential customer (primary dwelling only)
- ⦿ You are the head of your household or principal wage earner
- ⦿ The electric or gas bill is in your name AND you are currently receiving benefits under one of the programs listed on our website.

Learn more about our assistance programs:

UNITIL.COM/ASSISTANCE

UNITIL.COM/GASASSISTANCE



GENERAL CUSTOMER SERVICE INQUIRIES

CALL US: 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



LEARNING AT HOME: THE SCIENCE OF ELECTRICITY EXPERIMENT

Electricity experiments are perfect for teaching budding scientists about energy and how things work. Here's one parents can use for kids from kindergarten on up!

EXPLAINING ELECTRICITY: WHAT IS IT?

Well, let's start with an electric charge. Think about it like this: all matter is made up of atoms. Atoms are either positively charged protons, negatively charged electrons, or neutrons, which carry no charge at all. If an object is charged, it either attracts or repels (pulls or pushes) on other charged objects. Like-charged objects repel and opposite -charged objects attract. The behavior of an object that has been charged is dependent upon whether the object is made of a conductive or a nonconductive material.

Conductors are materials that permit electrons to flow freely from particle to particle. An object made of a conducting material will permit charge to be transferred across the entire surface of the object. On the other hand, insulators are materials that prevent the free flow of electrons from atom to atom and molecule to molecule. If the charge is transferred to an insulator at a given location, the excess charge will remain at the initial location of charging.

BATTERY ELECTRICITY EXPERIMENT

The purpose of this activity is to test materials to understand what materials conduct or resist or "insulate" electric current.

What You'll Need:

- ✓ Battery
- ✓ Small Bulb (an old flashlight bulb and battery work great!)
- ✓ Aluminum Foil (folded lengthwise and "rolled" up)
- ✓ Tray or table for workspace

- ✓ Objects to test such as a key, an eraser, a coin, a nail, a piece of chalk, a piece of wood, a cork, and a candle. Older children can test materials such as aluminum, copper, nickel, and tin.
- ✓ Paper and Pencil to record results
- ✓ Conductor and Insulator Sorting Worksheet

Step-By-Step:

- 1 Place the items you've gathered to test on a tray or workspace
- 2 Explain the activity in detail (using language appropriate to the child's developmental stage of course!)
- 3 Point to the battery, the bulb, and the foil
- 4 Ask the child to roll the foil
- 5 Point to the tray of objects and talk about conductivity and insulation
- 6 Test objects by placing the object between the battery and the bulb, then touching the foil to the base of the bulb. The bulb should light up (or not).
- 7 Encourage children to take notes about the objects/ materials and their observation



VISIT THE OUTAGE CENTER!

Prepare for the unexpected, get outage and restoration updates in your area, or find out more about how we restore power.

UNITIL.COM/OUTAGE-CENTER



GAS EMERGENCIES ARE SERIOUS. If you suspect a leak or have a Gas Emergency, leave immediately and from a safe place, call 911 or one of our toll-free hotlines below.

MASSACHUSETTS:
1-866-542-3547

MAINE:
1-866-900-4460

NEW HAMPSHIRE:
1-866-900-4115



Report an Electric Outage Online or call us toll-free at **1-888-301-7700**.

Visit the Outage Map online at:

UNITIL.COM/MAP

View real-time updates as to current electric outages, customers impacted and percentage of customers affected in a given community.



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