

# ENERGY SAVING LIGHTING TIPS



The average U.S. household has upwards of 67 light bulbs, but most of us have yet to realize the potential savings of switching to more energy efficient solutions. On average, lighting accounts for around 15% of our home electricity usage, so small changes can make a big difference. Energy-efficient bulbs may cost more to purchase than traditional bulbs, but they'll pay for themselves in the long run!

- Almost 90 percent of the energy given off by incandescent light bulbs is in the form of heat. Not only is that energy wasted, but it can place an undue burden on cooling systems during the summer months.
- Right bulb, right place: Unless you're performing surgical procedures, an overly lit room can give your living space a clinical vibe—and wastes energy, to boot. Choose the most appropriate bulb for your space.
- Today, light bulbs are labeled according to the amount of light (lumens) they produce—not the amount of energy they consume (watts). The Lighting Facts Label will help you choose the right bulb for your needs. PRO TIP: The higher the number of lumens, the brighter the bulb.
- Dimmers are easy to install. The brightness can be increased to provide just the right amount of light for the task at hand, then lowered again for a more relaxed ambience.

And as a reminder, your monthly bill also has lots of ways for you to keep tabs on your energy usage. Just login to your MyUnitil account to view usage and history throughout the year!



## STORM PREPAREDNESS BUILDING AN EMERGENCY KIT

Electric outages can occur without warning. It's a good idea to be prepared for the unexpected by checking and inventorying the following items before losing power:

- Bottled water—Red Cross recommends one gallon per person per day.
- Non-perishable food and canned goods. And don't forget the manual can opener!
- A [hand-crank weather radio/flashlight combo](#) doesn't require batteries, and some models have USB ports for charging cell phones.
- Cash and change-point-of-sale machines and ATMs rely on electricity to function.
- First-aid supplies, including any necessary medications.
- Bandages, antibiotic ointment, disinfecting wipes.
- Emergency phone numbers—you may not be able to access your contacts on your cell phone.
- Car charger for portable electronic devices—even a fully charged cell phone will need to be recharged eventually.
- Extra blankets or sleeping bags—[emergency blankets](#) can trap 90 percent of body heat and take up very little space.
- Warm coats, hats, and mittens for all members of your household—even during the warmer months, an extended period without heat or hot water can be uncomfortable.
- Multitool—use the pliers to turn off utilities, and tweezers are handy for first aid.

Our website is full of useful information to help you stay one step ahead of storms. Visit The Outage Center today at [UNITIL.COM/OUTAGES-EMERGENCIES](https://www.unitil.com/outages-emergencies).

## Did you know?



## ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU CLEAR YOUR SEWER LINE!

If your sewer line is blocked, do not try to clear the blockage—it could result in a serious accident. A blocked sewer line may be the result of another utility line (gas, electric, telecommunications) accidentally cross boring through the sewer line (a cross bore is an unsafe intersection of two different utility lines).

- 1 Call Unitil's gas emergency number: MA 1-866-542-3547, NH 1-866-900-4115 or ME 1-866-900-4460 and request immediate assistance. Unitil will dispatch a technician to meet with you and locate the gas pipeline at 1-888-301-7700 for immediate assistance.
- 2 If you suspect or discover that the blockage is caused by a cross bore, please do NOT attempt to clear the blockage with a mechanical device. Please call us for assistance.

## Put a Twinkle in Your Holiday!



## HOLIDAY LIGHT SAFETY!

This holiday season we could all use just a little more light, inside and out! But as you deck your homes and halls, make sure you stay safe!

- ✓ Use a sturdy ladder and a partner when climbing high distances.
- ✓ Keep an eye on any overhead power lines and stay at least ten feet from any lines servicing your home.
- ✓ Check the lights! Some light strips are unsafe outdoors because they are not waterproof. And lights made to be hung outside are too hot for indoor use.
- ✓ Switch off lights overnight. Hot bulbs and wires can create a fire hazard and use up energy.



## 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](http://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**.

MY  Unitil

We're here to provide direct assistance to customers in need, so please don't go it alone!

### ENERGY SAVING PROGRAMS

can help reduce costs. Through the Unitil, Mass Save® and NHSaves® programs and the Efficiency Maine Trust programs, rebates and contractor services are available to encourage the installation of energy saving home and business improvements.

To learn more, go to [MASSSAVE.COM](http://MASSSAVE.COM), [NHSAVES.COM](http://NHSAVES.COM) or [EFFICIENCYMAINE.COM](http://EFFICIENCYMAINE.COM).

### RESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

are available through local and state organizations in our service areas, and offer highly supportive programs, such as Federal Fuel Assistance, weatherization programs, and home energy assistance for qualified customers.

### LOW INCOME DISCOUNT

Depending on the size of your family and your combined gross annual income, you may be eligible to receive a discounted rate for your Unitil gas and electric service.

Learn more about all of our assistance programs by visiting our website:

 [UNITIL.COM/ASSISTANCE](http://UNITIL.COM/ASSISTANCE)

Visit the Outage Map online at:

[UNITIL.COM/MAP](http://UNITIL.COM/MAP)

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



Follow us on Twitter for real-time outage updates.

[TWITTER.COM/UNITIL](http://TWITTER.COM/UNITIL)



Like us on Facebook to get useful tips and information.

[FACEBOOK.COM/UNITIL](http://FACEBOOK.COM/UNITIL)



**General Customer Service Inquiries**

**CALL US: 1-888-301-7700 (SCAN CODE TO CALL NOW)**

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](http://UNITIL.COM/CONTACT)



Know what's Below.  
Call 811 before you dig.

