

FALL ENERGY SAVINGS



Ooh, pumpkins on porches and warm apple cider! There's nothing like autumn in New England, but along with picture postcard days, fall also ushers in cooler temps and increased energy use. The good news is with just a few easy steps you can help you keep your house warmer, your family cozier, and your energy usage down all season long.

WELCOME THE SUN

Enlist the power of mother nature to warm your home.

- Open curtains on the south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat the home and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Plant deciduous trees on the south facing side of the home, especially in proximity to windows. They will let the light and warmth in the windows during the winter and will shade the windows in the summer.

REDUCE HEAT LOSS FROM THE FIREPLACE

We love a cozy fire, too, but remember to manage heat loss!

- Keep the fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. An open damper is like keeping a window wide open; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When in use, open the dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly—approximately 1 inch—and close doors leading into the room.
- If the fireplace is never used, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- Install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

DODGE THE DRAFTS

Doors and windows can be a significant source of heat loss, but sealing the gaps is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to keep the heat in.

- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.
- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of window frames during the cold winter months.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.
- Seal air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

TAME THE TEMPERATURE

Make yo-yo house temperatures a thing of the past.

- Wi-Fi enabled thermostats can learn your habits and adjust the temperature in your home accordingly.
- When you are home and awake, keep it set as low as possible.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn the thermostat back to save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. But make sure the temperature is comfortable for pets!
- If you have a heat pump, maintain a moderate setting, or use a programmable thermostat specially designed for use with heat pumps.

SERVICE YOUR SYSTEMS

A little attention goes a long way.

- Schedule routine service for home heating systems.
- Replace furnace and heat pump filters once a month or as needed.
- Regularly clean the flue vent of wood and pellet burning heaters and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that it is heating efficiently.

Safety First



PROTECT YOUR HOME – CHECK FOR STAINLESS STEEL TUBING TODAY!

Whether you are a homeowner, a contractor, or business owner, you need to know about the natural gas piping in your own environment to keep you, your family, community, and customers safe!

Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing, or CSST for short, is a flexible tubing often used to deliver natural gas inside a building. CSST is susceptible to both gas leaks and fire, because when installed incorrectly, (including improper bonding), it can act as a conductor for lightning strikes. Keep your home and business safe by having a licensed professional regularly inspect the system to prevent danger and code violations.

OCTOBER IS CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

Utility scams have become more frequent and more sophisticated, deploying a whole range of tactics and techniques. Remember these critical things to protect yourself and your family:

- ✓ Imposter fraud, in which the scammer pretends to be a representative of your utility, is the most common type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).
- ✓ All Unitil employees carry company-issued identification, and you can always call us to verify this information.
- ✓ Never share personal information, such as birthdate, social security number, or bank account information with a caller or visitor you don't know.

We also encourage you to visit our site to learn about these scams and others—and check back to frequently to make sure you stay current with any new one.

[UNITIL.COM/BLOG/HOW-AVOID-UTILITY-SCAM](https://www.unitil.com/blog/how-avoid-utility-scam)



PRO TIP: TURN ON YOUR ALERTS!

Get real-time alerts regarding your monthly bill, account management, service work, and outage restoration. An email or text is a great way to stay up to date on power outages in your community, and a convenient way to manage your account!

To get started, call us or visit:

[MYACCOUNT.UNITIL.COM](https://www.unitil.com/myaccount)

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](https://www.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.

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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](https://www.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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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](https://www.unitil.com/contact)



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Call 811 before you dig.

