



# SAVE MONEY: PLANT A TREE!

**Did you know that Mother Nature could help you save as much as 25 to 30 percent on your heating and cooling bill?** Believe it or not, a few strategically placed trees can do just that.

- ✔ Plant deciduous trees so that they shade the east and west sides of your house to save on cooling costs during the summer months.
- ✔ For the biggest benefit, plant shade trees 25-30 feet from your house.

- ✔ Plant evergreens on the north side to limit the amount of cold air that enters your home in the winter.
- ✔ Shading your AC unit from the sun's rays will keep it cooler, and allow it to run more efficiently.
- ✔ Dense evergreen shrubs planted 4-5 feet from the house foundation will block wind and provide natural insulation.
- ✔ A windbreak consisting of tall, dense evergreens should be planted at a distance of two to five times their mature height from your house.



## Safety First

### CAN YOU RECOGNIZE A NATURAL GAS LEAK?

Gas leaks are rare, but when they do occur, it's important to know how to spot the signs and act in a safe manner:

- ✔ Watch for debris or fire blowing up from the ground or otherwise healthy vegetation dying in one spot.
- ✔ You may hear a hissing sound, as the gas is pressurized and a break in the line causes it to move very swiftly, or may even hear an alarm from a methane detector. A residential methane detector works like a smoke detector, using an internal sensor that measures and monitors the concentration of methane in the air. There are a range of detectors available on the market. We recommend that whatever you purchase is UL rated (UL 1484).

- ✔ You may smell rotten eggs, caused by an odorant that is added to gas to make leaks more detectable.

If you suspect a gas leak, immediately leave the area or building. When at a safe distance, call 9-1-1. Emergency responders and the utility company will inspect and secure the area. Here's a link with more information on gas leaks: [UNITIL.COM/GAS-LEAK](https://www.unitil.com/gas-leak)





*Don't Overload Your Home!*

## NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH

Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk by knowing what to look for:

### WARNING SIGNS OF AN OVERLOADED CIRCUIT

- ① Flickering, blinking, or dimming of lights
- ② Warm or discolored wall plates
- ③ Burning odor from receptacles or wall switches
- ④ Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses
- ⑤ Cracking, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles
- ⑥ Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles, or switches

### HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

- Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances.
- All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only plug one heat producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets.
- Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.

For more electrical safety information visit: [UNITIL.COM/ELECTRIC-SAFETY](https://www.unitil.com/electric-safety)



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR LIFE SUPPORT CUSTOMERS

If you or a family member uses electrically operated life support systems, we encourage you to notify Unitil by submitting a completed Physician's Certification Form, which you can find at [UNITIL.COM/LIFE-SUPPORT](https://www.unitil.com/life-support).

As part of our storm or scheduled outage planning, Unitil makes special efforts to send advance notification to help you prepare for power outages.



**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)



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

