

ENERGY

CONNECTIONS

NorthWestern
Energy

NOVEMBER 2012 | NEBRASKA

Delivering a Bright Future



Comfort and Convenience

The comfort and convenience of natural gas are at your fingertips with the flip of a switch. Forget the chopping, hauling and cleaning that comes from owning a wood-burning fireplace. Don't worry about running out of propane while you are away or when you get an extended cold spell. Natural gas is always there when you need it.

Reliable

Natural gas provides instant heat with an adjustable thermostat that can be controlled on gas cook tops or ranges and by thermostats.

A properly maintained natural gas furnace will provide about 20 years of reliable service.

Efficient

Natural gas water heaters reheat water about twice as fast as electric models – an economic approach that also means less waiting for hot showers in the mornings.

Comfortable

The temperature of gas heat at the register is between 110 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit, which warm your home quickly and efficiently.



Natural Gas a Good Value

Natural gas continues to remain a good value when compared with other fossil fuels such as propane and heating oil.

In October, the American Gas Association (AGA) announced that total winter heating bills should remain among the lowest in the past decade even in the face of cold weather.

"Natural gas is the right choice for consumers and for our economy," said AGA CEO Dave McCurdy. "The domestic abundance of this foundation fuel points to its potential to remain affordable even in the face of greater demand."

Natural gas will heat our homes, run our vehicles, generate electricity and partner with renewable energy sources for decades.



Natural Gas Works in a Power Outage

A power outage can totally derail your daily routine. Not being able to bathe, cook or stay warm can be frustrating. If there's no power for more than a few hours, the inconvenience becomes a real concern.

By overriding the electronic ignition on the surface burners and instead lighting them with a match, you can use your gas stove. Cook your favorite meal on a gas cook top or range and use the power outage as an opportunity to dine by candlelight.

When the power is out, many natural gas fireplaces can be lit with a match. You'll be

able to heat enough of your living space to remain comfortable.

Most natural gas water heaters operate with a pilot light, heating water even when the electricity is out.

If you have a natural gas generator installed, it will usually automatically start when the power goes out. That way you can continue to power your furnace, refrigerator and some lights and even some important appliances you rely on during emergencies, such as the television, computer or radio.



Kitchen Safety Tips

Every member of your family should be taught about cooking safely. Keep these tips in mind...

- Children should be taught not to turn any range knobs.

Keep all combustible materials, such as paper towels, curtains, clothing, and electric cords, away from range burners.
- Keep an all purpose (ABC rated) fire extinguisher in a convenient location. In the event of a range-top fire, use the extinguisher. You can also use baking soda to put out a grease fire, and small fires often can be smothered with a wet towel or a large pot cover.
- Keep burners and the range top clean. Boil-overs and accumulations of grease can create a fire hazard.



- If a burner flame goes out, shut off the range knob. Wait for the gas to dissipate, and then relight the burner.
- When lighting a manually operated oven or top burner (no pilot light), ALWAYS light the match first, place it at the burner and then turn on the range knob.
- Shut off the burners when not in use.

Carbon Monoxide

Under normal operating conditions, natural gas burns cleanly, producing heat, carbon dioxide, and water vapor. Natural gas is non-toxic and is the cleanest burning fossil fuel available. But if natural gas isn't burning properly or the appliance has a mechanical problem, it could create a dangerous hazard.

Incomplete combustion of natural gas produces carbon monoxide (CO), which is an odorless, poisonous, and potentially fatal gas. Some indicators of incomplete combustion are a yellow flame (blue is normal) or burning odors and soot around the front of the furnace or water heater.

If you or other members of the household feel out of breath, dizzy, nauseous and have headaches, you could be suffering from CO poisoning – get fresh air immediately, then call NorthWestern Energy or 911.



Contact...

MONTANA

Customer Contact Center (888) 467-2669
7 a.m. - 6 p.m. M-F
Emergency 24/7 Service
Call Before You Dig 811
Energy Efficiency (800) 823-5995

NEBRASKA

Customer Contact Center (800) 245-6977
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Emergency 24/7 Service
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SOUTH DAKOTA

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