

# Connections

March 2020 | Oregon

## Free and easy energy savings



**Are you ready to save energy and money but not sure where to start?**

Our partner Energy Trust of Oregon offers free Energy Saver Kits filled with products to help you reduce energy costs right away. Kits are tailored for every home and may contain products like water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators—and these products only take minutes to install. Order your kit today at [energytrust.org/esaverkits](http://energytrust.org/esaverkits) or by calling (866) 691-1766.



## I love my house!

**Energy efficiency improvements make it even more comfortable.**

When Lisa Leinberger started looking for her first house she carefully made a budget. Mortgage pre-approval in hand, she very quickly found a beautifully updated 1910 craftsman near Gonzaga Prep.

"I just fell in love. I love this house. I love everything about it," Leinberger said. She later did some research and discovered the home was built by a woman. "It is very feminine. I love all the light from the big windows."

She signed the mortgage papers in January of 2019—one of the warmest Januaries on record—and moved in right before a toe-numbing cold spell hit in February.

"I was a little surprised by what it took to warm up the place," Leinberger said. This didn't sway her love for the house, but she knew this old beauty had some undesirable features that could make a difference in how much energy she used. She turned down the electrical baseboard heaters in rooms she didn't use and went to an Energy Fair hosted by Avista to learn more about how to cheaply weatherize her first home.

She learned that up to 10 times as much energy dissipates through a single-pane window as compared to a wall and that covering single-pane windows with crimping plastic may cut energy consumption in half.

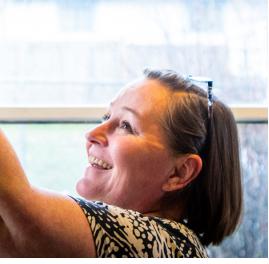
The plastic works like an extra pane, and low-cost kits with everything needed for installation can be picked up at most hardware stores.

Leinberger quickly got the hang of covering windows, and she immediately noticed the difference: the cold draft was gone.

Rope caulk is also an inexpensive, effective filler for gaps in vintage guillotine window frames, and other cracks.



**Continued on back >>**



<< Continued from front

## I love my house!

Leinberger placed blankets along the bottom of the two exterior doors—a good quick fix when it comes to keeping cold air out, but also a tripping hazard.

Installing a low-cost doorsweep or draft stopper—a piece of plastic or rubber that's easily mounted along the bottom of the door—is a much safer way to weatherize an old door.

Because fireplace chimneys suck warm air out of a home very quickly, it's best to close them up for winter. Using inch-thick foam board cut to size is a simple fix that can be easily removed at a later time if the fireplace is needed for heating.

Being a first time homeowner can feel overwhelming, but Leinberger said these energy preserving measures are simple, affordable and are bound to make a big difference.

"Did I mention I love my house? With these quick, easy fixes I love it even more!"



## Know what's below: Excess flow valves



**What is an Excess Flow Valve (EFV)?** An excess flow valve (EFV) is a device that automatically restricts the flow of natural gas if an underground pipe is punctured or severed. Such damage may result from excavation. The EJV is installed underground on the service pipeline that runs between the natural gas main (usually located near the street, alley, or easement) and the Avista meter on the customer's property. Generally, the EJV is installed as close as possible to the natural gas main.

EFVs have been installed on most new and replaced natural gas customer services since 2008, however, since April 2017, existing natural gas customers without an EFV on their natural gas service may elect to have one installed at the customer's request and expense. Installation costs vary greatly due to different conditions within our service territory. Customers will be billed for actual labor and materials costs associated with the installation. Estimates for cost and timeframe for construction will be provided as requested on a case-by-case basis. There is no ongoing maintenance cost for the customer.

Whether you have an EFV installed or not on your service line, you need to call 811 to have all underground utility lines properly marked at least two business days before starting any projects that require digging.

If you would like to pursue having an EFV installed in your service line or if you would like to find out if you already have an EFV, please call us at (800) 227-9187 or email us at [ask@myavista.com](mailto:ask@myavista.com).



## Connect With Us

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**Email:** [ask@myavista.com](mailto:ask@myavista.com)



## Tools to help you save

**Use our online tools to learn about the energy savings available for you.**

Being aware of the energy you use can reduce costs and conserve our natural resources. There are many simple, low-cost steps to take to reduce energy waste. One of the easiest and most convenient ways to learn about energy savings is by visiting us online.

- Compare your bills: you can compare this month to last month or year over year. Also, get facts such as average daily use and temperature.
- Energy efficiency tips: outline top ways you can save energy by reviewing tips and tricks to reduce usage.
- Access a library of how-to videos, expert advice and information about energy topics.

To access these tools and explore ways to save, log onto your "My Account" on [myavista.com](http://myavista.com) today. Check out the "Compare Your Bills" tool and our Save Energy Section.

