

January 2021 | Oregon

Ring in the New Year with comfort and savings



If you're spending more time at home this winter, a cozy space is more important than

ever. Start the new year with energy-efficient home upgrades that can help you save energy and money for years to come. Our partner Energy Trust of Oregon offers cash incentives for natural gas furnaces, smart thermostats, insulation, and natural gas fireplaces. For more details and to learn about additional offers, visit energytrust.org/homes or call (866) 368-7878.



At home with Lisa: Humidity vases

It happens every year. When the weather gets colder, the skin on my hands begins to chap and crack. It's not the cold that does this. It's the dryness in the air.

Something I learned this week—the humidity of your house contributes to how warm you feel during winter months. When I attended last year's Avista Energy Fair, my goody bag included a small digital gauge. It looked like a thermometer, but it had an extra number on it. It measures the humidity of a room. You can find these on Amazon for under \$5.

I wondered what effect humidity has on your home in the winter and found lots of resources online. I found this blog post (bobvila.com/articles/increase-humidity/) very helpful. When the humidity of a room drops below 30 percent, your skin gets chapped and it feels colder.

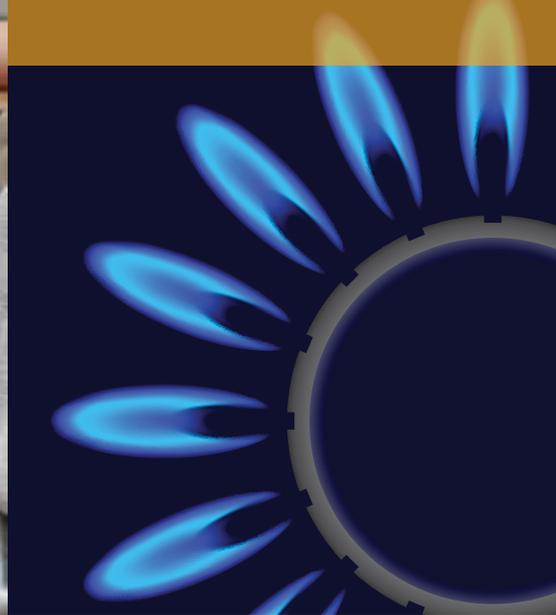
You don't have to get a whole humidifier to add moisture to the room. You can boil a pot or kettle of water on your stove as long as you keep an eye on it. Leave the door open when you shower, or if you are a bath person, open the door when you are finished and let the water cool on its own.

Lisa, an Avista customer, bought her 1910 house because she loved the old-world character, some of which doesn't make her house very energy efficient. Lisa is sharing her experience on taking some simple do-it-yourself improvements to inspire others to do the same. You'll find her stories at myavista.com/connect every Tuesday morning.

One creative way to add moisture to a room is to place vases of water on elevated surfaces in a room. You want it high enough so it is away from children or pets. You can add decorative rocks, essential oils, cranberries... whatever you want. I took a vase and added some glow-in-the-dark plastic plants for an aquarium, filled it with water and added some plastic fish. You can also get luminary lanterns with floating candles and place them around your room.

These humidity vases may take a little longer than a humidifier, but if you have more humidity, you can turn your heaters down a bit and still feel comfortable.





When's the last time you replaced your furnace filter?

Regularly changing your furnace filter can greatly improve the efficiency and extend the life of your furnace. But it's a task most of us tend to forget.

We have a great solution to help you remember to change your furnace filter, even if you've got this down like clockwork and you just want the convenience of doorstep delivery. Join our furnace filter program and we'll send you email reminders every three months. If desired, you can also choose to receive money-saving manufacturer's coupons, or even have new filters conveniently delivered to your door.

There are many great reasons to replace the air filter in your furnace, including creating better operation and extending the life of your furnace, as well as the benefits of reduced energy use and cleaner indoor air quality. You can even save unnecessary expenses that restricted air flow place on your furnace.



Never forget that filter again. Sign up today at myavista.com/changemyfilter.

Pilot light safety



Do any of your natural gas appliances use pilot lights that stay on all

the time? Older models typically do, although newer, high-efficiency natural gas furnaces have done away with pilot lights altogether. Be sure you know which of your appliances have pilot lights.

For those that do, here's what you need to know to stay safe:

- In most cases, when a pilot light goes out, it triggers an automatic shutoff valve. This feature should safely turn off your appliance.
- Gas range-top burners aren't equipped with a safety shutoff.

If an appliance won't light — or if you smell the rotten egg odor of gas — get out of your house and call 911 and then Avista at (800) 227-9187 right away. We'll send a service representative to check things out.

Visit myavista.com/safety for more information about natural gas safety.

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