

## Ways to save

**It's home improvement season here in the northwest.**

It's time for increasing not only your home's value, but also your family's comfort and enjoyment. But there's another reason to consider an upgrade or two. On average, nearly half of residential energy bills go into heating and cooling your home. Which means that every improvement you make now can have a long-term impact on your energy use.

**And with our energy-efficiency rebates, you'll save even more.** Like getting \$4 per square foot back on new windows, \$400 on a tankless natural gas water heater, or \$1,000 when you switch your electric furnace to an air-source heat pump. You can even get \$150 back when you install a smart thermostat—one of the easiest ways to get a handle on your energy use.

Whether you're remodeling or just looking to use less energy, check out our complete list of energy efficiency rebates and tips at [myavista.com/waytosave](http://myavista.com/waytosave).



## Beat the heat

**Summer is right around the corner and before you know it, the sun will be beating down on your house.** Now is the perfect time to plan how you'll keep your home cool and comfortable over the next few months. Early preparation will help you manage your energy use and avoid surprises on your bill.

There are lots of ways to keep the sun's heat out of your house. Simple adjustments and low or no-cost do-it-yourself projects can make a noticeable difference. Getting started is easy. Here are some quick tips to save energy:

- Use box fans before turning on your air conditioner. Fans use about 1% of the energy that AC's do.
- Switch your ceiling fan's spin direction to counterclockwise. This will push air downward, so you can feel it.
- Turn ventilation fans off when you don't need them (bathroom, kitchen, etc.). They pull the cool air from inside your home and push it straight outside.
- Set your thermostat at 78°. Each degree above that can save 3% on your cooling bill.
- Close your blinds and drapes during the day. Insulated drapes or shades can block up to 65% of the sun's heat from passing through your windows.
- Use your microwave instead of the oven. It uses up to 20% less energy than the oven and won't heat up the house while you're cooking.
- Barbeque outside. Summer barbeques are fun and don't heat up the inside of your house.
- Hang laundry outside to dry. Avoiding the dryer will save energy and keep your house cooler.
- Landscape with shade trees or vines. Reduce the amount of heat entering your home on south-facing sides. Remember to call 811 before you dig.
- Check your insulation levels. Proper attic, wall and crawlspace insulation will keep

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## Continued from front Beat the heat

hot air out and cool air in.

Want more energy saving tips to help beat the heat this summer? We've got you covered with lots of DIY videos and ideas by visiting [myavista.com/askanexpert](https://myavista.com/askanexpert).

Got a larger project in mind? Check out our energy efficiency rebate options to see how we may be able to save you some money. Learn more at [myavista.com/getrebates](https://myavista.com/getrebates).

Staying cool and comfortable this summer doesn't have to cost a lot or be difficult.

## Know what's below

**Before you break ground with a shovel, auger or other equipment, call 811 at least two business days before you dig—it's the law.** A utility representative will come mark the approximate location of your buried utility lines. The service is free for Avista residential customers. Privately-owned lines can be located for a fee.

### Call 811 before you dig checklist

Never disturb the ground until you complete these steps:

- Use white paint to mark the zone where you plan to dig.
- Call 811 and wait for the utility representative to mark the facilities owned by Avista.
- Maintain and respect these locate marks.
- If your located ticket expires, you must call in for a new locate.
- Hand dig within the 24-inch tolerance zone to expose the marked utility.



If you damage, hit or nick an electric or natural gas line, immediately notify Avista customer service at (800) 227-9187. If you damage a pipeline and natural gas is escaping, **DO NOT FOLD OVER THE PIPE** to seal the leak. Static charge can ignite the gas. Walk upwind a safe distance away, then call 911 and Avista.

Visit [myavista.com/811](https://myavista.com/811) for additional information.

ELECTRIC: RED

GAS-OIL: YELLOW

COMMUNICATION: ORANGE

WATER: BLUE

SEWER: GREEN

TEMPORARY SURVEY: PINK

IRRIGATION: PURPLE

PROPOSED EXCAVATION: WHITE

## Ground mark identification

Ground markings are in different colors to indicate the locations and types of utility facilities buried below. Valid periods for locate marks are: WA – 45 days; ID – 21 days. If anyone digs after the listed times, they are digging with an invalid ticket.



## Do you need help paying your bill?

We understand that there may be instances when customers find themselves facing financial difficulties. Avista partners with community agencies to provide financial assistance, plus we offer other services to help you manage and pay your bill such as **Comfort Level Billing, Preferred Due Date, and Payment Arrangements.**

We have options.

**We're here to help. Please call us at (800) 227-9187** to discuss your options with a Customer Service Representative or for more information visit [myavista.com/assistance](https://myavista.com/assistance).



## Wildfire season is here

Learn how Avista is prepared for wildfire season and how you can be ready too at [myavista.com/wildfire](https://myavista.com/wildfire).

Get more information on keeping your property safe from wildfire at [idahofirewise.org](https://idahofirewise.org) in Idaho and [wildfireready.com](https://wildfireready.com) in Washington.

## Connect with us

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