

# Connections



## Stay cool this summer with energy saving tips

### Hot tips for summer energy savings

Summer is once again upon us and if last year was any indication, it's best to be prepared for some above average temperatures. You can prepare your home in advance and keep your home cool by following these DIY energy saving tips by Energy Trust of Oregon. For more information visit [energytrust.org](https://energytrust.org).

**As temperatures begin to heat up, many of us begin to think about ways to stay cool. There are several options for keeping the sun's heat out of your house. Here are some ways you can stay comfortable in the heat while also conserving energy.**

**Consider installing a programmable thermostat.**

If you have a gas furnace, adding a programmable thermostat can save energy operating on a preset schedule, cooling your home before you return, and adjusting the temperature based on your life schedule.

**Check the furnace filter.** It's important to make sure your furnace is running efficiently even in the summer. Replacing filters once a month is recommended to optimize energy use. If the air quality is poor, it's also important to check your filter and replace it more often.

**Plan to prepare a meal that uses your outdoor BBQ, crock-pot, insta-pot, or microwave** instead of cooking on your indoor stove or oven.

**Use an ENERGY STAR® certified fan** to circulate air and keep you cool. Remember to turn the fan off when you leave the room. Fans cool people, however, the motor can also generate heat that empties back into the room.

**Block the heat drafts** from coming in your home. Check caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors. If you see cracks, light, or feel a draft, make repairs where needed. An 1/8" gap around a door is equivalent to a softball-sized hole in the wall. Install rope caulk, and door sweeps to keep the cold air in and the warm air out.

**Pool and hot tub covers** can help save up to 90% on heating costs. In addition to helping to minimize nighttime heat loss, pool covers also help prevent chemical loss and water evaporation.

Visit [myavista.com/summercooling](https://myavista.com/summercooling) for more tips to stay cool and DIY videos.





## Need help with your energy bill?

**Avista partners with community agencies to help customers manage their energy costs.**

If you need help paying your home energy bill, you may be eligible for financial assistance. Please call us at (800) 227-9187 to see if you qualify. Find an agency near you and learn more at [myavista.com/assistance](https://myavista.com/assistance).



## Know what's below

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



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

### 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 and you intend to continue digging, you must call in for a new locate.
- Carefully 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 more information.

### 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 in Oregon are

45 days. If anyone digs after the listed times, they are digging with an invalid ticket.

**ELECTRIC: RED**

**GAS-OIL: YELLOW**

**COMMUNICATIONS: ORANGE**

**WATER: BLUE**

**SEWER: GREEN**

**TEMPORARY SURVEY: PINK**

**IRRIGATION: PURPLE**

**PROPOSED EXCAVATION: WHITE**

## Connect with us

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