

Connections

Six ways to stay cool and save energy this summer

Summer has arrived and we want to help you beat the heat. Here are some easy low, and no-cost ways to keep your house cool and save energy at the same time:

- 1. Close the blinds:** Sunlight pouring in through windows can heat up your home. Close your blinds during the day to keep the hot sun out. Insulated blinds can block up to 65% of the sun's heat.
- 2. Use ceiling fans:** On average, fans use just 1% of the energy that air conditioners use. Plus, they keep air moving around your room to help you feel cooler. Most fans have a switch to change the fan direction. Make sure ceiling fans are blowing downward in the summer (in a counterclockwise direction) to send air past your body.
- 3. Use small cooking appliances or grill:** Use countertop appliances like your microwave or air fryer to save energy and avoid heating up your kitchen. Even better, grill outside.
- 4. Turn off lights:** If you haven't switched to LEDs yet, now is the time. Non-LEDs can produce a lot of heat. And no matter what kind of lights you have, turn them off when you're not using them to save energy.

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Avista is fighting wildfires before they happen

Avista is committed to doing our part to prevent and reduce the impact of wildfires. During dry weather and high winds, there is a risk that trees, branches, and debris can come in contact with Avista's power lines and other electrical equipment. This could trigger a spark that ignites a wildfire. Avista developed our Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) plan to lower this risk. PSPS lets us turn off power to select areas when extreme weather makes our equipment unsafe to operate. PSPS is only considered when the risk of a fire is extreme. Avista employs analytic tools to monitor and predict the weather seven days out to enable informed decisions.

We are committed to notifying customers and communities before, during, and after a PSPS event, allowing time to prepare for a power disruption. Conditions can change quickly, but we aim to keep those affected as well-informed as we can based on the situation.

We encourage you to update your contact information with us so you can be notified when we are considering a PSPS. It's also important to create an outage kit and be ready for potential outages.

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Continued from front Avista is helping fight wildfires before they happen

PSPS will only be used in the most extreme weather conditions. It's one tool we can use to prevent wildfires, but Avista has been working on wildfire prevention for years. In 2020, we launched our comprehensive 10-year Wildfire Resiliency Plan. Avista has completed grid hardening projects in areas of high fire risk. Some of these projects include replacing wooden transmission poles with steel, installing a special fire-retardant wire mesh around the bottom of wood poles, and replacing wooden crossarms on poles with a stronger fiberglass to better protect the electrical equipment and reduce the likelihood of spark-ignition sources. We have also increased vegetation management to reduce contact between trees and power lines and implemented improved tools to better assess fire risk with weather forecasting.

Visit myavista.com/wildfire to learn more about Avista's plans and how you can be prepared.

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- 5. Keep air filters clean:** If your home has central air conditioning, check the filter. Clean filters help the system run efficiently and improve indoor air quality. Sign up for our Furnace Filter Reminder Program and we'll notify you when it's time to replace your filter, too.
- 6. Plant trees:** If you have a yard, plant trees or shrubs to provide shade along south-facing windows. They'll block the sun and help cool your home. Remember to call 811 before you dig.

Visit myavista.com/summercooling for more information.

Know what's below



SAFETY IS IN YOUR HANDS.
EVERY DIG. EVERY TIME.

Before you break ground with a shovel, auger, or other equipment, click or call 811 at least two full business days before you dig—it's the law. A

utility representative will 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 by a 3rd party for a fee.

CLICK OR 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
- Click or 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 re-notify 811
- 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 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 are: WA – 45 days; ID – 28 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

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