



Colorless and Invisible

Natural Gas is colorless and invisible. When it burns, it should appear as a CLEAR, BLUE FLAME. Because natural gas has no odor, a special chemical called "mercaptan" is added to make it easy to detect gas leaks from pipes or appliances. The odor is commonly described as a rotten egg smell.

Natural gas is clean burning. When burned completely, it produces only water vapor and carbon dioxide just as you do when you breathe. Natural gas is such a safe and dependable fuel that it's easy to take for granted.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION

NATURAL GAS SAFETY

What to do if you smell gas—

If you smell gas, have occupants exit the building IMMEDIATELY and call the City of Winder Natural Gas Department at **(770) 867-7629, (770) 867-7978** or dial **911**.

While You Wait for a City of Winder Utility Service Technician—

- Don't try to locate the gas leak
- Keep everyone away from the area of the odor
- Leave doors open as you exit
- Don't turn lights on and off, or unplug any electrical appliances
- Don't smoke or strike matches
- Don't use a telephone of any kind or any electrical equipment that may create a spark



STAY AWAY FROM THE LOCATION UNTIL IT IS DECLARED SAFE TO RETURN BY THE CITY OF WINDER UTILITY SERVICE TECHNICIAN.

DIG SAFELY

Before you dig or excavate with mechanized equipment on your property, the law requires you to notify all utilities by calling **811** at least 48 hours in advance, excluding weekends and holidays, so underground lines can be located and clearly marked.



Natural Gas Energy Saving Tips

- Set your home's thermostat to the coolest level you can without making for rooms uncomfortable. 68°F is the recommended average setting. Heating bills can drop by up to 2% for every degree the thermostat is lowered.
- Seal up leak drafts around doors and windows with weather stripping, caulking and door sweeps. Also seal any leaks or gaps in furnace ducts that extend through unheated basements or crawlspaces.
- Have your furnace inspected and tuned by an HVAC company every 2-3 years, and clean or replace air filters on your furnace every 2 months during heating season. Your furnace will run more efficiently and use less energy.
- Set your water heater thermostat to 120°F. Lowering it from a higher setting will save you money.
- Take shorter showers, wash clothes in cold water and don't over-dry clothing.
- Purchase high efficient appliances. You may pay a little more but the money you save on energy will more than pay for the extra cost of the appliance.
- Tank-less water heating is the most energy efficient way to heat water. It heats the water on demand, and you will not run out of hot water.
- Turn your thermostat down when you plan to be away on trips and vacation.

Natural Gas Facts

- Switching to a natural gas heated, water heated home saves United States consumers more than \$5,700 on average over 15 years.
- A gas water heater heats more water per hour than electric water heaters—and for 50 percent less cost.
- Households with natural gas heating (water heating, cooking, clothes drying) spend an average of \$654 less annually than households without natural gas.
- Natural gas is safe and reliable. The 1.3 million mile underground natural gas pipeline delivery system has an outstanding safety record.
- Maximum heat can be achieved instantly with a natural gas range, and contrary to an electric range, the cooking stops as soon as you turn off the burner.



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