



## Ameren Missouri Fall Natural Gas Tips

### Natural Gas Safety Tips

- Smell Gas? Leave Fast! That distinctive "rotten egg" odor makes it easy to sniff out a gas leak. In addition, a hissing or roaring sound or an unusual area of dead vegetation, blowing dirt or bubbling water can all indicate a gas leak.
- If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate the premises immediately, taking pets, too. On your way out of the building, **do not use** light switches, cell phones, garage door openers or any electrical device that could generate a spark.
- Once you are safe, call **Ameren Missouri** at **1.800.552.7583** to report the suspected leak. The company responds to gas leak calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week – free of charge.
- When someone calls Ameren Missouri Customer Care to report a gas leak, their call is escalated and an Ameren first responder is immediately dispatched to the area. Upon arrival to the premise, the first responder will perform a leak investigation to determine if a leak exists and the appropriate remedial action.
- In some instances when a leak is confirmed, service must be shut off until a qualified HVAC contractor can make repairs.

### Natural Gas Equipment Maintenance Tips

- Have a qualified heating contractor inspect your furnace annually. A properly tuned furnace saves energy and helps avoid costly repairs.
- Check the flue to make sure it is clean and open. Any fuel that does not burn completely can create harmful levels of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is a gas with no color, odor or taste. It can collect in your home if a fuel-burning appliance isn't working properly or venting as it should.
- Keep forced-air furnace filters clean. Clean or replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendation.
- Avoid using or storing these products near the furnace: paint stripper, fabric or water softener, bleach, adhesives, or salt for melting ice. The chlorine or fluorine in these items can lead to furnace corrosion.
- Keep your heat registers and cold-air returns clean so the air can flow properly. Also, arrange your furniture and drapes so they don't block the air flow.
- Have your gas fireplace routinely serviced by a professional to ensure proper working order.
- In the event of a power outage, do not use natural gas stove burners or the oven to heat your home.

### Natural Gas Efficiency Tips

- Open curtains during the day to allow the natural sunlight to help heat your home.
- Cover drafty windows with heavy-duty, clear plastic found at local home improvement stores.
- Seal leaks around windows and doors to prevent warm air from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- Reduce heat loss from the fireplace by keeping the damper closed when it's not being used.
- Lower the thermostat a few degrees while you sleep – you'll save money while resting better.
- Adjust your water heater to the warm or low setting – you'll save money while keeping the water temperature safer for your family.
- Wash clothes in cold water – you'll save energy used to heat the water.
- When replacing natural gas products, invest in energy efficient products that earn you cash back rebates like a water heater or furnace.
- Visit [AmerenMissouri.com/NaturalGas](http://AmerenMissouri.com/NaturalGas) for details about cash back rebates, restrictions and rebate forms.