

Propane Living

Winter Energy Saving Tips



1. Seal air leaks and insulate your home properly so your energy dollars do not seep through the cracks.
2. Keep your fireplace damper closed unless you have a fire going. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
3. Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.
4. Only heat the rooms you use. If you have rooms that you never use, like guest rooms or large storage areas, close and seal off the vents in those rooms to be more energy efficient and direct the flow of air to the rooms you use most.
5. Do not let furniture, rugs or drapes block vents and baseboard outlets.
6. Use a programmable thermostat to set your heater back when you are not home.
7. Run your ceiling fan in reverse to distribute heat evenly to rooms and recirculate trapped warm air.
8. Replace your filter once a month or as needed.
9. Install a new energy-efficient furnace to save money over the long term. Appliance rebates are available on propane furnaces.

Check out more energy-saving tips at <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver>.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, *“Your air ducts are one of the most important systems in your home, and if the ducts are poorly sealed or insulated, they are likely contributing to higher energy bills... Ducts that leak heated air into unheated spaces can add hundreds of dollars a year to your heating and cooling bills.”*

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This newsletter is compliments of your propane provider in partnership with the Propane Council of Texas.



**Winter
Baking
Recipe
INSIDE**

Winter Safety Tips



Here is some winter wisdom we would like to share to help your family have a safe and healthy winter:

- Maintain an adequate supply of propane in your tank. Winter storms may make roads inaccessible making it more difficult to make deliveries and access your propane tank.
- Get in touch with your propane provider immediately if you run out of propane. A propane provider or qualified service technician must check your system for leaks before turning the gas back on.
- Keep the path to your propane tank clear. A clear path helps the delivery drivers get to your tank easily, fill it quickly, and move on to the next customer.
- Allow your appliances to vent properly. If it is safe to do so, clear snow, animal nests and other obstructions from outdoor vents, chimneys, and flues to prevent blocking any ventilation. Incomplete combustion can increase your risk of carbon monoxide (CO) exposure.
- Never heat a home with a cooktop or oven.
- Never use a generator, patio heater, grill, or camp stove inside the home or in an enclosed area. Keep these devices at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents. These devices can emit carbon monoxide, an odorless and lethal gas.
- If your carbon monoxide alarm sounds, move quickly to a fresh-air location outdoors. From the fresh-air location call or text 9-1-1 for help, and remain there until emergency personnel arrive to assist you.

Cinnamon Streusel Cake



Make this streusel Bundt cake even more impressive looking and tasting by drizzling with a Vanilla Glaze.

25m **PREP TIME** 1hr **COOK TIME** 12 **INGREDIENTS** 18 *Servings*

INGREDIENTS

Streusel Topping

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon McCormick® Ground Cinnamon
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter, cut into chunks
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Cake

- 2/3 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup sour cream
- 4 eggs
- 1 tablespoon McCormick® All Natural Pure Vanilla Extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. For the Streusel Topping, mix flour, brown sugar and cinnamon in medium bowl. Cut in cold butter with pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in pecans. Set aside.
2. For the Cake, beat softened butter, granulated sugar and sour cream in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Mix in vanilla. Gradually beat in flour and baking soda on low speed until well mixed.
3. Spoon 1/2 of the Streusel Topping into greased and floured 12-cup Bundt pan. Spoon 1/2 of the batter over top. Repeat layers.
4. Bake 1 hour or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Remove from pan. Cool completely on wire rack. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar, if desired.

TIPS & TRICKS

Cinnamon Streusel Apple Cake: Prepare cake batter as directed, stirring in 1 cup chopped peeled apple.

Photograph & recipe are courtesy of: McCormick® www.mccormick.com

Do You Need Help with Your Heating Bills?

The Texas Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) funded by the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and administered through the Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs with help from local community action agencies known as CEAP subrecipients assists qualifying households with their energy needs.

Types of Energy Assistance

Utility Assistance. Households with an income at or below 150% of federal poverty guidelines, with priority given to elderly persons age 60 & over; persons with a disability; households with a child at or below the age of five; households with the highest energy costs versus income (high energy burden); and households with high energy consumption. A household that has recently lost their income may qualify. The program only asks for the last 30 days of household income. Qualifying households, at the time of application, may be considered for assistance throughout the remainder of the year regardless of an increase in income anytime within the year.

The program may pay two separate fuel sources (e.g., electric and propane). Depending on income level, households may receive up to \$2,400 max per year for utility assistance.

Crisis assistance. The program can also help in a crisis. A crisis is defined as when a household has lost service or is in immediate danger of losing service, and one of the following conditions must be present: 1) Extreme weather conditions, 2) Disaster declared by the President or Governor, or 3) Life-threatening crisis. Qualifying customers can receive up to 250 gallons of propane or suspend a shut-off during a crisis. Please note that disconnect notices alone are not considered a crisis.

Depending on income level, separately, households may receive up to \$2,400 max per year for crisis assistance.

Equipment purchase & repair. For vulnerable population households, service and repair of existing heating and cooling units is allowed when the household has an inoperable heating or cooling system, or the system is not functioning according to its intended purpose up to \$7,500. If crisis conditions exist as defined above, non-vulnerable population households are allowed service and repair of existing heating and cooling units up to \$7,500.

In the rare case of a life-threatening crisis, the purchase of portable heating and/or cooling units is allowable, and if necessary, the purchase of a generator may be allowable.

How to apply for energy assistance. Propane customers can apply for energy assistance through their local community action agency, which processes their application, determines eligibility, and is authorized to provide utility assistance.

Applicants are required to provide income verification, a current gas/electric bill, and proof of citizenship or qualified alien status.

Payments are made directly to vendors and/or landlords on behalf of eligible households. Utility bills already paid may not be reimbursed by the program. Total maximum possible annual household benefit (all allowable benefits: utility assistance, crisis assistance, and equipment purchase, or repair combined) shall not exceed \$12,300 during a Program Year.

For assistance and to find the contact information of the agency in your area that provides utility/propane assistance, please refer to the Help for Texans website at <https://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/texans.htm>, click on "Utility Bill Payment Help", type in your City or County, and click "Find Help".

Unwrap the Gift of Propane Rebates



The Propane Council of Texas (ProCOT), a non-profit propane marketing and educational foundation is giving away rebates for new appliances during the holiday season. This rebate program will assist Texas homeowners to save on select new propane appliances while funds last.

Whether you're building a new propane home or it's just time to upgrade your old appliance, this appliance rebate program can help offset the cost of the new appliance.

Propane appliance rebates amounts

- \$300 for a new propane tank or tankless water heater
- \$300 for a new propane boiler or furnace.
- There is a \$600 cap per Texas household.

It's easy. Texas consumers just need to contact their local propane provider to start the application process. It's a quick two-page application that requires a qualifying proof of purchase and a propane safety inspection by your propane provider.

Completed rebate applications must be received within 30 days of the propane safety inspection.

Check fund availability and learn more about the program at www.txssaveswithpropane.com.

Rebate program subject to change in 2022.

Questions? Please email rebates@propanecounciloftexas.org.

TAKE A
LOOK INSIDE

IN THIS
ISSUE

OPEN NOW



ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS



ENERGY ASSISTANCE



APPLIANCE REBATES & MORE

