

December 2020 | Oregon

## Stay cozy this winter for less



Home improvement projects and saving money don't always go hand in hand, but with cash incentives from our partner Energy Trust of Oregon you can improve your home and increase comfort while also lowering energy bills. Right now, customers are eligible for a limited-time bonus incentive for insulation upgrades and for \$100 off smart thermostat models, including the new Google Nest Thermostat. For details on these offers, visit [energytrust.org/save/#smart\\_thermostats](https://energytrust.org/save/#smart_thermostats) or call (866) 368-7878.



## Hey, it's cold outside

**With temperatures cooling down across the region, you may have noticed a sudden increase on your energy bill.**

When our home heating system begins firing up more often, it consumes more energy. This can present a challenge when we're trying to maintain comfort in our homes while also keeping an eye on how much we spend.

Current times are challenging in more ways than one. Luckily, Avista is here to help. We can provide you with information on how to manage your natural gas bill in the winter months and help you manage increases in your energy bill.

There are many factors that impact your bill. These include weather, current billing cycle, holidays, shorter daylight hours, drafts, heating systems, and other items such as hot tubs, or heated outbuildings or driveways.

Visit [myavista.com/winterbill](https://myavista.com/winterbill) to utilize tools that will give you a better understanding of your usage. You can view your usage by seeing the billing days and average billing cost. You can also compare your bills month to month and year to year to see how you're trending. We also have an energy saving checklist and DIY videos available to help you save as much money as possible.

Heating makes up the largest part of your energy bill during cold weather. Setting your thermostat back just three degrees at night while you're sleeping can save up to 10 percent. You can make it even easier by getting a programmable thermostat to make sure you don't forget.

Visit [myavista.com/winterbill](https://myavista.com/winterbill) for more ideas on how to increase the comfort inside your home while also reducing your energy use. And to view the benefits of having a smart meter during the heating season, please visit [myavista.com/smartmeters](https://myavista.com/smartmeters).





## Safely storing flammable liquids



**One cause of household fires is improper storage of flammable liquids.**

Did you know that liquids such as paint thinner, gasoline, cleaning solvents and contact cement can produce invisible, explosive vapors? These vapors can catch fire or explode if exposed to a flame or small spark—even at considerable distances from the flammable substances. Flammable liquids or combustible material need to be kept away from your furnace, water heater, vent pipe or any ignition source. When you use flammable liquids, do so in open, well-ventilated areas, far away from any possible source of ignition.

Here are some tips for properly storing flammable liquids:

- Keep in accurately labeled, tightly closed, non-glass containers;
- Store away from heaters, furnaces, water heaters, ranges and other gas appliances;
- Keep out of reach of children;
- Store outside the house when possible.

Taking these extra precautions ensures everyone's safety. For more safety tips, please visit [myavista.com/safety](http://myavista.com/safety).

## It's holiday baking time

**Over the holidays, your oven can get a real workout.** To help your oven operate efficiently and economically, follow these tips:

- Since it's a long, slow cook for turkey or holiday ham, there's no need to preheat your oven. Unless you're baking breads or pastries, you may not need to preheat at all.
- Don't open the oven door to take a peek at what's inside. Instead, turn on the oven light and check through the window.
- If you use glass or ceramic dishes, you can lower your oven temperature by 25 degrees and foods will cook just as quickly.
- For cooking on your stovetop, be sure to match the size of the pot or pan to the size of the burner, and always cover pots when cooking.



For more energy-saving tips, visit [myavista.com/advice](http://myavista.com/advice).



## Connect With Us

Mailing Address: 1411 E. Mission, PO Box 3727, Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Toll-Free: (800) 227-9187 | Web Site: [myavista.com](http://myavista.com)

Email: [ask@myavista.com](mailto:ask@myavista.com)

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