


February 2021 | Washington • Idaho

Don't let it get away

 **Air fleeing your house allows heat to escape and increases your energy use.** When it's cold outside, drafty windows or doors can work against you. But you can fight back, keeping that winter chill out where it belongs, all while saving energy.

To check for drafts, run your wet fingertips around a door or window frame. Or, hold up a tissue to see if it waves.

Once you've identified the culprit, seal those leaks. Caulking is the right tool for the job between non-moving parts, like a window frame and the wall. Weather stripping goes next to moving parts, such as a door and its frame.

Consider having drafty windows replaced. This will reduce energy consumption and increase the value and beauty of your home.

Avista also offers rebates on new windows—\$4 per sq ft for standard windows and \$3 per sq ft for storm windows. Visit, myavista.com/energy-savings/rebates-washington/windows for more information. And look for more energy-efficiency tips at myavista.com/advice.



At home with Lisa: Drapes

This week I completed a project I have been trying to avoid since I moved in.

I love that my house has a lot of windows. There isn't a room that doesn't have at least one. There is natural light during the daylight hours, and I don't have to turn on the lights.

The Avista Energy Guide said that window coverings are one of the easiest ways to insulate my house. On cold days I can close them to keep in the heat. On sunny days I can open them. This week, I finally decided that I needed to do this not only because I wanted to insulate my living room, but because my boyfriend has been putting up cardboard over the windows when the sunlight shines directly into the house. I really can't have that.

Putting up my new drapes was pretty easy—it was a lot like the time I put a sunshade on the outside of the house, but without needing a ladder.

I measured the window and added a couple of inches on each side. Then I ordered a curtain rod from the hardware store and some curtains from an online retailer. Make sure that if there is a baseboard heater directly below the window that you find some drapes that don't touch them.

I got out my trusty hand drill and drilled holes into the wall. Then, I inserted the plastic screw covers. I screwed in the hardware that held up the curtain rod. It was pretty easy.

Now I have some nice insulating drapes in my living room. I'm getting used to them. I chose some that are a pretty aqua color, and I've been enjoying coming down to my living room first thing and opening the curtains on a new day.

Lisa, an Avista customer, bought her 1910 house because she loved the old-world character, some of which doesn't make her house very energy efficient. Lisa is sharing her experience on taking some simple do-it-yourself improvements to inspire others to do the same. You'll find her stories at myavista.com/connect every Tuesday morning.





Out of sight, out of mind

It's a phrase that could refer to the jar of half-used pasta sauce buried in the back of the fridge. Not that we don't care about refrigerator hygiene, but it won't surprise you to know we are referring to gas meter safety.

Avista will need access to your gas meter for periodic readings and maintenance. And in case of an emergency, we'll need immediate access to the shutoff valve.

With these things in mind, take a look at your meter with fresh eyes. Is there anything in the way? Are there plants or flowers hiding the dials? Is debris gathered around it? In the winter, is it buried under six inches of snow? If the answer is yes to any of these, help us out by carefully removing these obstacles and making the pathway to the meter safe.

While we're talking about the meter, we'll also ask that you never lean objects against it, place objects on top of it, or build anything (like a deck) above it.

Finally, be careful when operating a vehicle near your meter. It can be relatively easy to forget about and accidentally back into it, which could result in a dangerous situation.

Beyond these simple steps, Avista will take care of everything else, like periodic maintenance.

Out of sight, out of mind is a cliché for a good reason: it's how our human brains tend to work. But when it comes to the natural gas meter on your property, it's best to keep it in mind, even when it's out of sight.

Visit myavista.com/resngsafety for more information.

Project Share, helping a neighbor in need

In the middle of a crisis, it is hard to know where to turn for help.

One of our customers recently found their family in such a situation. While the household was welcoming a new baby, they were faced with many difficult situations: a vehicle accident, job loss and cold winter weather. After going without power for three weeks, they reached out to Avista for help.

We referred them to their local community action agency, SNAP (Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners) for assistance. With that help, the family was able to get their services restored before the snow began to fall. This family had never accessed assistance benefits before; they weren't even aware that help was available.



Avista customers, employees and corporate donations are what make that help possible through Project Share — a community fund that seeks to stabilize a household through hardship. Collectively, each of our giving helped approximately 2,000 households in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon last year.

Giving is easy. One hundred percent of the funds collected by Avista are passed to the Project Share fund. For those who would like to make direct donations to the program, please visit: givetoprojectshare.org.

Check out myavista.com/assistance, if you would like to learn about energy assistance in your area.

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