

Cozy up with smart thermostat rebates

As an Avista customer, you can enjoy greater comfort and energy efficiency by upgrading to a smart thermostat with incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon. Cozy up at home with an additional \$20 off and free shipping on qualifying smart thermostats starting as low as \$9.99 after applying our incentive. To make your purchase visit energytrust.org/orders or give us a call at (866) 368-7878.



Take control of winter heating costs

Homes use more energy to stay warm when temperatures drop outside. It's why natural gas bills go up in winter. It's also why managing your heating system and stopping heat loss is so important this time of year. Here are some ways to take control of your home's heating and energy usage:

- 1. Find out what's using energy:** Heating makes up 40-60% of winter energy bills. To save, you'll need to know what else is using energy in your home. To help, we partner with Energy Trust of Oregon to offer customers online and in-person home energy assessment options. Visit myavista.com/homeenergyaudit to sign up.
- 2. Stop heat from escaping:** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average home wastes \$200 to \$400 a year on energy lost through air leaks. Keep heat inside by caulking cracks, using plastic on drafty windows, and replacing old weatherstripping. Visit myavista.com/tips to watch DIY videos.
- 3. Use your heating system efficiently:** No matter what type of heating system you have, it will run more as the temperature outside continues to drop. Learn how to help it use as little energy as possible.
 - **Forced air furnace:** Keep filters clean and seal leaky ductwork to help heated air reach the rooms throughout your house. Lowering the thermostat by three degrees can save up to ten percent, too.
 - **Wood fireplaces:** Close the damper when not in use to keep warm air from escaping out the chimney.
 - **Baseboard, wall, or space heaters:** These run on electricity, but you may use them to supplement your natural gas heat sometimes. Use only in occupied rooms and if freezing pipes are not of concern, close doors to unused rooms, so you're not paying to heat an empty space.

Visit myavista.com/winterbill to learn more.





Your billing cycle

Did you know one factor that can impact your energy bill is the number of days in your billing cycle? The number can vary month-to-month, from 27 to 35 days, mainly because of the actual number of days in a month, and when weekends and holidays fall. Having more days in the current bill than the previous month can contribute to a higher bill.

Check the back of your Avista bill to find the number of days in your billing cycle.

Visit myavista.com/winterbill to learn more about how winter impacts your energy bill.



We can help you with your energy bill

Winter heating bills can be hard to manage. If you're looking for ways to keep up or just need to know your options, we want to help. We team up with local community action agencies to provide billing and payment programs and home energy-saving solutions to eligible customers.

We also offer payment arrangements and options like Comfort Level Billing, to help even or spread out your costs. Even better, our *My Energy Discount* program lowers natural gas bills every month for two years.

Visit myavista.com/ORassistance to see which options are available to you and check if you qualify for *My Energy Discount*.



Keep the path to your meter clear

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, look at your meter with fresh eyes. Is there anything in the way? Are there plants 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 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. 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.

Connect with us

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