



CITY of MANNFORD, OK

P.O. Box 327 / 300 Coonrod
Mannford, OK 74044
Ph. (918) 865-4314

February 2, 2022

MPWA Natural Gas Customers:

Due to the extremely cold weather that is predicted, we have received notice from Southern Star Natural Gas Pipeline, that they may have to issue an **Operational Flow Order** restricting the volume of natural gas that Mannford is able to use *without paying outrageously high penalties*, which would result in losses that the City of Mannford would need to pass on to the consumer.

The Winter Storm Uri event of February 2021 caused an extremely high cost for natural gas, which has not been passed on to Mannford's natural gas consumers. Mannford's natural gas rates have remained the same since 2005. We are asking consumers to do everything that they can to conserve natural gas for the duration of this winter weather event so that we can continue to provide natural gas service at the current rates.

Heating and Cooling Tips

1. Set your thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer.
2. Clean or replace filters on furnaces once a month or as needed.
3. Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting, or drapes.
4. During the heating season, keep the draperies and shades on your South facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

\$ Long Term Savings Tip

Select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment. Your contractor should be able to give you energy fact sheets for different types, models and designs to help you compare energy usage. For furnaces, look for high annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) ratings. The national minimum is 78% AFUE, but there are models on the market that exceed 90% AFUE.

Water Heating Tips

1. Install aerating, low-flow faucets and showerheads.
2. Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period of time.
3. Lower the thermostat on your water heater; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 120 F provides comfortable hot water for most uses.
4. Take more showers than baths. Bathing uses the most hot water in the average household.
5. If you are in the market for a new dishwasher or clothes washer, consider buying an efficient, water-saving model to reduce hot water use.

\$ Long Term Savings Tips

Buy a new energy-efficient water heater. While it may cost more initially than a standard water heater, the energy savings will continue during the lifetime of the appliance.

Consider installing a drain water waste heat recovery system. A recent Department of Energy study showed energy savings of 25% to about 30% for water heating using such a system.

Cold-Climate Window Tips

1. Close your curtains and shades at night open them during the day.
2. Keep windows on the South side of your house clean to let in the winter sun.

\$ Long Term Savings Tip

Installing new high-performance windows will improve your home's energy performance. While it may take many years for new windows to pay off in energy savings, the benefits of added comfort and improved aesthetics and functionality may make the investment worth it to you. Today, many new window technologies are available that are worth considering. Glazing materials (the glass part of the window) now come with a variety of selective coatings and other features; frames are available in aluminum, wood, vinyl, fiber glass, or combinations of these materials. Each type of glazing material and frame has advantages and disadvantages.

Top 7 Ways to Cut Your Natural Gas Winter Heating Bill

Once you have your thermostat under control, here are the 7 ways to save on winter natural gas heating costs for your home. Each of these tips to save money on heating can add up to real savings on your natural gas bill.

1. Find the leaks. Perform a DIY Home Energy Audit at the start of the heating season. You'll identify areas where cold air is leaking into your home, such as windows, doors, electrical outlets and plumbing. Use spray foam to reduce air leaks around utility cut-outs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations") under the sink. And make sure electrical outlets and wall plates on your outside walls are properly insulated.
2. Seal Windows. During your DIY home audit, you'll check your window seals. According to [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov), heat lost through leaky windows accounts for 10 to 25 percent of your overall heating bill. One fast way to stop the air leak is to seal the window using commercially available clear plastic film and your hair dryer. (Note: for fire safety, don't seal your bedroom windows.)
3. Control humidity. Especially in colder climates, home humidity is an issue. Dry winter air pulls moisture from your skin, making you feel colder. Instead of reaching for the thermostat, use a humidifier to keep your home humidity between 30 and 50%. You'll feel warmer with some humidity in the air.
4. Install an Attic Tent. An attic tent insulates the attic access door from the rest of the house. This will ensure that warm air isn't escaping into your attic.
5. Dress for the Weather. Feel cold? Put on a sweater instead of reaching for the thermostat. There's no reason to heat up the whole house when you feel a chill. Keep your central core warm with a sweater, and wear slippers or socks around the house.
6. Insulate Your Water Heater. An insulated natural gas water heater will operate more efficiently. This is especially important if your water heater is located in your garage, basement, or other non-insulated space. You can purchase a water heater blanket online or at most local hardware stores. Regular water heater maintenance can keep your water heater operating at peak efficiency.
7. Use Space Heaters. A space heater can warm the room you're in so you don't have to heat the whole house. That's especially important when you have central heating. Today's modern space heaters are energy efficient and have automatic safety features to avoid over-heating.

