

# THE MPPD MINUTE



February  
2024

## Simple Steps to Lower Heating Costs and Keep You Warm

Nearly half of the energy used in a typical U.S. home goes to heating and cooling it, making it the largest energy expense for most homes. There are some simple steps, such as sealing air leaks to keep cold air out, that can help you save on your energy use and energy bills:

- Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet, or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.
- Weather stripping is relatively easy to use and available at your local home improvement store. Stop drafts from coming in and heat from leaking out of your home through drafty doors and windows.
- If you have older or leaky windows, consider temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits.
- Open curtains to the sun to help warm a room with radiant energy. Close them at night and on gloomy days to keep heat in.
- Lower the temperature setting when you leave the home and at night when you go to sleep. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically make these adjustments for you.
- Replace your furnace filter monthly to save energy and improve heat circulation.
- Set the water heater thermostat to 120 degrees and if it is an older unit, install an insulating blanket to prevent heat loss.
- If you have a fireplace, be sure to close the damper when it is not in use. This prevents heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.

 Safe  
Electricity.org

**NEBRASKA IS THE ONLY 100%  
PUBLIC POWER STATE IN THE COUNTRY**

- ♦ Nebraska named first in power grid reliability.
- ♦ Fifth in lowest electricity price
- ♦ Sixth in overall energy sector

 U.S. News and World Report's 2023, Best state rankings

## STAY WHERE YOU ARE

You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your vehicle. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.



## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

If you dig without knowing what is located below, you could damage an underground line. Not only could you become seriously injured, but you will be responsible for the cost of repairs. Call 811 at least two business days prior to breaking ground. **MPPD DOES NOT locate private lines.** We only locate MPPD primary lines. It is the responsibility of the owner to locate their private lines.

**Diggers Hotline of Nebraska**  
www.ne-diggers.com  
1-800-331-5666



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.