

Your Energy Connection



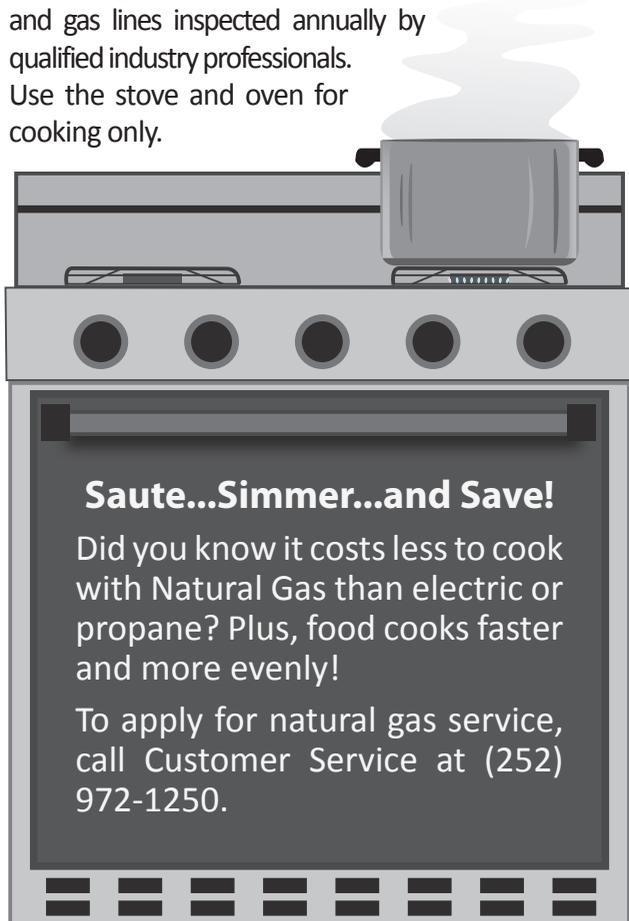
October 2014

Natural Gas Safety

When used properly, natural gas provides customers with clean, reliable, and efficient energy. Natural gas is also one of the safest forms of energy. However, it's important for customers to follow safety guidelines for natural gas usage and to know the signs of a gas leak and what to do if a gas leak should occur.

Safety guidelines

- Look for a steady, blue flame, which indicates the gas appliance is operating correctly. (Gas logs are the exception as they have a yellow flame to resemble a real wood fire.)
- Have all gas appliances, furnaces, vents, flues, chimneys and gas lines inspected annually by qualified industry professionals.
- Use the stove and oven for cooking only.



Saute...Simmer...and Save!

Did you know it costs less to cook with Natural Gas than electric or propane? Plus, food cooks faster and more evenly!

To apply for natural gas service, call Customer Service at (252) 972-1250.

- Keep the areas around all appliances clean and unblocked to allow for proper air flow.
- Never store household chemicals or combustible materials near gas appliances.
- Make sure there is at least one multipurpose fire extinguisher in the home.
- Do not move or install a gas appliance or change the connector in any way without professional assistance.

Signs of a natural gas leak

- The strong smell of "rotten eggs"
- A shrill blowing or hissing sound
- Dirt blowing up from a hole in the ground
- Dead or discolored vegetation near a pipeline
- Persistent bubbles in streams, ponds, or wet areas

What you should do if you suspect a gas leak

1. Leave the home immediately and call (252) 467-4800 day or night to report the gas leak. **An electric spark could cause an explosion, so do not smoke, strike a match, operate any electrical switches or appliance controls, pull any plugs from outlets, use a flashlight or lighter, or use a phone inside the residence or building.**
2. After calling to report the leak, a gas technician will be dispatched to check the meter and service lines. (The City of Rocky Mount owns and is responsible for all gas mains and services leading up to the meter.)
3. If no gas leak or other issue is found with the City-owned equipment, the technician will turn the gas off at the meter to make it safe until the customer can make arrangements with a contractor.
4. All gas lines and appliances from the meter to the interior of the home are the responsibility of the customer and will need to be inspected by a contractor.
5. Once a contractor has determined the home is safe, call (252) 467-4800 to have the gas turned back on.



There are so many ways to save energy throughout the home. In the kitchen, one way to save energy is by changing your cooking method. For instance, using a toaster oven instead of the stovetop cuts the energy usage in half!

Appliance	Watts	Time	Cost
Oven	2000	1 hour	\$0.26
Stovetop	2400	1 hour	\$0.32
Crockpot	200	4 hours	\$0.11
Microwave	950	15 mins.	\$0.03
Toaster Oven	1200	1 hour	\$0.16

Would you like to win up to \$150 off your utility bill?

Simply enter an energy-saving recipe in the Watt's Cooking Recipe Contest and you could win money off your utility bill!

To enter, take an original recipe that typically requires the oven or stovetop and instead use an electric appliance that uses less electricity, such as a microwave or toaster oven.

The first place prize is \$150 off your utility bill, second place is \$75 off your utility bill, and third place is \$50 off your utility bill.

Everyone's a winner! All customers who submit an energy-saving recipe will receive a free potholder and chef's hat (*while supplies last*). Limit one potholder and chef's hat per household.

The contest is open to City of Rocky Mount residential customers only. All entries must be submitted by November 15, 2014. Winners will be notified in November. Funding for the contest is provided by NC Public Power. One recipe may be submitted per household. For more information or to submit a recipe online, visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/recipe. Recipes may also be emailed to energyspecialist@rockymountnc.gov or submitted in person or by mail to Rocky Mount Public Utilities at 331 S. Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, NC 27802. For customers without internet access, please call (252) 972-1269 to request an entry form.



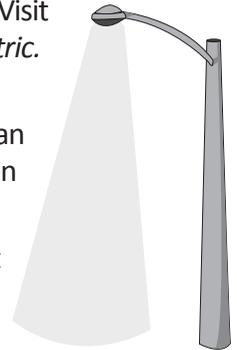
Area Light Program

The City of Rocky Mount offers an Area Light Program for your home or business. The addition of area lights provides **extended hours of light** and **added security to dark areas**.

There are a variety of area lights available with no installation or maintenance fees. Visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/electric.html for the monthly service fees.

For more information or to have an area light installed, please contact Allen Richardson at (252) 467-4856.

To report an area or street light outage, please call (252) 467-4800 or visit utilities.rockymountnc.gov.



Extreme hot or cold weather affects your usage and monthly utility bill. Visit www.temptracker365.com to see which days, weeks, or months were extremely hot or cold, causing your heating or cooling system to run longer.

Save money on your electric bill with Load Management!

The following bill credits are available for RMPU electric customers who sign up to have Load Management switches installed on one or more appliances in the home:

- Electric Water Heater: \$2.00 credit per month
- Electric Heat Strips: \$15.00 credit per month during three months of winter
- Central Air Conditioner: \$20.00 credit per month during three months of summer

By using Load Management switches, RMPU is able to hold down the cost of providing power. These savings are passed on to you in the form of a monthly credit on your electricity bill. There is no cost to you for the switches or installation.

(252) 467-4803

www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/loadmanagement.html

