Don’t sizzle this summer!

Keep your summer cooling costs down with these energy saving tips.

1. Avoid setting your thermostat below 78° when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and will result in unnecessary expense.

2. Ensure your home is properly insulated which will increase the efficiency of your cooling system.

3. Using a ceiling fan will allow you to raise your thermostat about four degrees without impacting your comfort. Turn the fan off when you leave; remember, fans cool people, not rooms.

4. Regularly replace your air conditioner’s filters. This could lower its energy use by as much as 15 percent.

5. Conserve water with high-efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators.

6. Water your lawn in the morning or evening to reduce evaporation and conserve water.

Tips courtesy of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Big or small, you need to call 811 before you dig

Why call 811?

• It’s the first step in any project. When you call 811, your local utilities will mark their underground lines so you can dig safely.

• It’s fast. It only takes a couple of minutes. Call 811 or visit paonecall.org at least three business days before you dig.

• It’s free for homeowners. The call and service cost nothing and can save you from expensive fines and repairs.

• It’s for everyone. Whether you are a DIY person or professional contractor or landscaper, you always need to call 811.

• It’s the law. You’ll help prevent utility damages to keep us all safe. State law requires you to hand dig or use non-mechanized equipment within 18 inches of any flags or markings.

What do the flags and paint marks mean?

The flags and paint marks identify where underground utilities are located. Yellow flags or marks show the location of natural gas lines. Do not remove or allow anyone to play or tamper with the flags or they will need to be remarked before digging begins.

For more information, visit ColumbiaGasPA.com/811.
Keep clear access
This summer help prevent damage to your utility meter and ensure proper functioning by trimming nearby bushes and trees.
Be aware of the potential size and growth pattern of new plants. They might look great planted close together when they’re young, but they can become a jungle as they grow. Fencing can also make an attractive addition to your property, but be careful to keep the meter dials in easy sight and accessible.

Use your senses
Summertime is a great time to remind our customers about how they can stay safe while enjoying the many benefits that natural gas offers, including what to do if you smell natural gas.

Use your senses to detect a natural gas leak:
Look – Bubbling water or dirt blowing from the ground near a natural gas line can indicate a release of natural gas from an underground pipeline.
Listen – A hissing, blowing, or roaring sound from the ground could indicate a potential hazard.
Smell – An unpleasant odorant like rotten eggs (called “mercaptan”) is added to natural gas to provide an early warning of leaking natural gas.

If you detect a natural gas leak:
• Leave the area immediately and call 911 from a safe location.
• Tell others to stay away from the area.
• Avoid open flames or anything that could spark ignition.

What not to do if you smell gas or suspect a leak:
• Don’t light a match or candle, or operate anything that could cause a spark.
• Don’t attempt to operate a pipeline valve or try to correct the leak yourself.
• Don’t open windows and doors in an attempt to ventilate. Leave them in their current positions.

For more information about natural gas safety, please visit ColumbiaGasPA.com/stay-safe.

Employees volunteer time, talent, and energy
Throughout the month of June, as part of the first-ever Columbia Gas Volunteer Blitz, employees across Pennsylvania participated in a coordinated month of volunteerism aimed at making a positive difference where they work, live, and play.

In just one month, throughout the Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania service territory, approximately 80 employees participated in 10 different volunteer events, totaling nearly 550 hours of volunteer time.

Projects completed by employees included building a home with Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at local food pantries, participating in community clean-up events, and providing important safety modifications and facility maintenance at non-profit organizations.

Columbia Gas is committed to supporting non-profit organizations that make a difference in the communities we serve. To learn more about our investment in strong communities, visit ColumbiaGasPA.com/givingback.