

At Your Service

Providing Electric, Gas, Water and Sanitary Sewer Services



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November 2025

Stay safe and save with natural gas

As temperatures turn colder, you'll be using more natural gas. Here are a few simple steps you can take to be a smart natural gas customer.

Proper furnace upkeep is key to keeping your home warm, your energy bills low and avoiding costly repairs:

- Clean or replace your furnace filter. Check manufacturer specifications for type of filter and recommended duration of use.
- Check and clean vents if dirty or blocked.
- Keep the area around your furnace clean of clutter and debris.
- Annual maintenance by a professional for more detailed inspection and service is recommended.

Fall is also a good time to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

A good rule: Replace batteries when you change your clocks for daylight saving time (spring and fall); or set a digital reminder every 12 months.

Be aware of gas leaks.

Leaking natural gas is dangerous. It displaces oxygen in the air, which could lead to asphyxiation. Also, it can cause a fire or explosion. A natural gas leak is indicated by the strong smell of rotten eggs (the chemical ethyl mercaptan, which is added to natural gas). Here are some safety rules to follow if you smell natural gas:

Do

- Exit the building immediately.
- Leave the door open on the way out.
- Call Hastings Utilities at from a safe distance at (402) 463-1371.
- Stay away until someone from Hastings Utilities or Hastings Fire & Rescue says it's safe to return.

Don't

- Operate anything electrical or light a flame.
- Turn on the lights.
- Use the telephone.
- Turn on a flashlight.
- Open an automatic garage door.

