

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO NATURAL GAS LEAKS

Your sense of sight, hearing or smell can alert you to a natural gas leak.

Look

- A damaged connection to a natural gas appliance.
- Debris, water or dirt being blown in the air could be caused by a leak in an underground pipe. Pipes can be just inches below the surfaces, so these signs can alert you to a natural gas leak.
- Dead or dying vegetation (in an otherwise moist area) over or near natural gas pipeline areas.
- Exposed pipeline after an earthquake, fire, flood or other disaster.

Listen

- An unusual sound, such as a hissing, whistling or roaring sound near a natural gas line or appliance.

Smell

- The distinctive odor of natural gas such as rotten egg or hydrogen sulfide.

IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS LEAK

- Evacuate the area, and from a safe location, call your local natural gas utility and call 911 from a safe distance.
- Do not smoke or light a match, candle or other flame.
- Do not turn electrical devices or light switches on or off; or use any device that could cause a spark.
- Do not start an engine or use any device, including a telephone, which could cause a spark.
- Do not attempt to control the leak or repair the damaged pipe or meter.
- Safely abandon any motorized or powered equipment or vehicles. Natural gas leaking from a plastic pipe can create static electricity that can ignite the natural gas.

NATURAL GAS APPLIANCE SAFETY

- Have your natural gas appliances inspected annually by a qualified professional.
- Never store anything near a natural gas appliance that might be flammable, combustible, or interfere with normal appliance airflow.
- If you have decorative natural gas logs, permanently lock the damper in the open position by using the damper lock included with the log assembly kit.

WATER HEATER SAFETY

- Water heaters may have a burner flame and many also have a pilot flame. To reduce the risk of flammable vapors being ignited by these flames.
 - Water heaters installed in garages must be elevated so the pilot or other source of ignition is a minimum of 18 inches above the floor or installed per local building codes or the manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Lowering your temperature setting can help prevent scalding accidents and lower your energy costs. Water temperatures above 120°F can cause severe burns or even death. Please refer to your water heater manufacturer's recommendation for safe water heater temperature settings.
- Earthquakes can cause an improperly secured water heater to move or topple. To help prevent this, strap it firmly to the wall studs in two places – the upper and lower one third of the tank – with heavy bolts and metal strapping. Be sure to place the lower strap at least four inches above the thermostat controls. Kits are often available at your local hardware store and we recommend having a licensed, qualified professional install it for you.



ENERGY TIP

Lowering your temperature setting on your water heater can help prevent scalding accidents and lower your energy costs

COOKING APPLIANCE SAFETY

- Never use your range or oven to heat your home; these appliances are not designed for this purpose.
- Do not install aluminum foil in the oven or on the range top, doing so may restrict exhaust vents and affect air-flow and result in carbon monoxide poisoning.



SAFETY TIP

Keep burners and the range top area clean of grease. Grease is flammable and excessive buildup may result in a fire