

Natural gas safety tips for winter weather

As temperatures drop this winter, households will increase their use of natural gas to keep their homes warm and comfortable. Natural gas is one of the safest sources of energy, but it's important to recognize a potential natural gas leak and know what to do if you suspect a leak.

How can I recognize a natural gas leak?

- **By smell:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but gas providers add a chemical that makes it smell like rotten eggs so any leaks can be easily detected.
- **By sound:** A hissing or roaring sound coming from a natural gas line might be a sign of a leak.
- **By sight:** If you see unexplained dead grass, natural gas might be leaking. Dirt or debris blowing in the air and water bubbling in a puddle, pond, or creek are other signs.

What should I do if I suspect a leak?

If you smell a faint gas odor:

- Make sure all gas appliances and burners on your stove are turned off completely.
- Open one or more windows and wait a few minutes for the gas odor to dissipate before investigating further.
- Check the pilot lights on your gas furnace, water heater, stove, and oven.
- Don't try to relight a gas appliance while you can still smell gas.
- If you need assistance relighting the pilot light, call a heating or plumbing contractor.

If you smell a strong odor:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use the telephone or cell phone until you reach a safe location away from the suspected leak. Then call Rock Energy at 866-752-4550 to report the location.



As you're shoveling sidewalks and driveways this winter, remember to check your natural gas meter and pipes for drifted snow, top, which can cause problems. When exposing the meter and pipes, avoid using a snow blower. Instead, gently remove snow and ice from the area. Also remember to clear snow away from furnace intake and exhaust pipes.

- Do not light a match or turn on or off any switches, flashlights, garage door openers, or other appliances because an electric arc might ignite the gas.

How can I get more information?

If you have any questions about natural gas safety, we would be happy to provide you with further information. Just call us at 866-752-4550 or e-mail questions@rock.coop.



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