

Smarter & Greener Energy Savings Tips

February 2010

- Setting your thermostat between 65-68°F during the winter months, health permitting, can save about 2% on your heating bill for each degree you lower the thermostat.
- Since most building codes now require damper stops for gas fireplaces, keep the damper and glass doors on your fireplace closed when it is not in use.
- Turn off exhaust fans as soon as they have completed their job. In just one hour, exhaust fans in your kitchen or bathroom can deplete a house of its warm air.
- Installing a new low-flow showerhead is one of the simplest and least expensive ways to “think green.” Lowering your monthly water and energy bills will add some green to your pocketbook, too.
- Setting your water heater dial to 120°F (check your owners manual to find setting) will reduce your water heating costs.
- Washing full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine will save time, detergent, and energy.



Call our Energy Specialists at **1-800-654-2765**, or visit us at **www.swgas.com**, for more energy-saving tips.

Natural Gas Water Heaters are Fast and Efficient

Better Performance

When compared to electric water heaters, natural gas heats water twice as fast. Quick recovery time means you can have hot water when you need it, and in most instances at a lower cost.

Green for your Pocketbook and the Environment

Using an ENERGY STAR® qualified gas water heater can save an additional \$30 a year in energy costs. Plus, natural gas water heaters emit less carbon compared to electric water heaters.

The Smart Solution

When you add up all the benefits, including the benefit that natural gas is the cleanest-burning fossil fuel, natural gas is the smart solution for your water heating needs.

Water Heater Carbon Emissions

TYPICAL ELECTRIC*



TYPICAL GAS



TANKLESS GAS



Water heater comparison estimated annual carbon emissions based on standard home and family of four (in tons).

*Assumes electricity generated by a typical fossil fuel-fired power plant.

Source: ICF International



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smarter > greener > better™





Be Counted in 2010

What: The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.

Who: All U.S. residents must be counted.

When: Census Day is April 1, 2010.

Why: The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census count will determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, and allocate more than \$400 billion to states.

How: Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.

2010 Census Questionnaire: Quick, Easy and Confidential

With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. For more information about the 2010 Census, go to www.2010census.gov.



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Call Volume

Call volume is heaviest on Mondays at Southwest Gas. If possible, please call our offices Tuesday through Friday for quicker service.

Earned Income Tax Credit

Did you earn less than \$48,279 last year? If you did, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families, could pay you as much as \$5,657, and additional credits could pay you even more. Individual credit and refund amounts will vary.

To qualify, a taxpayer must meet certain eligibility guidelines and file a tax return.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs offer FREE tax assistance to low to moderate income taxpayers, and are often located in convenient community locations.

For more information about the EITC and how to get FREE tax filing help, visit the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov, keyword: EITC, or call **1-800-829-1040**.

