
Benefits of Natural Gas

Homes and businesses throughout Williston love natural gas because of its lower cost and high efficiency. But there are many other benefits and features that come into play when natural gas is used wherever and whenever possible.

Effective

- Natural gas costs less to use than all other fossil fuels and electricity.
- More than 99 out of 100 professional chefs prefer natural gas. The other guy makes sushi.
- Natural gas dries clothes in roughly half the time, at half the cost, with fewer wrinkles than its electric counterpart.
- Instant temperature control when cooking with natural gas range.
- With a natural gas tank-less water heater, you can take a shower all day long. It heats water faster than you use it.
- Natural gas tank water heaters refresh much faster and cost much less to use than electric.
- More than 70% of the nation heats their homes with natural gas. The other 30% doesn't have a pipeline nearby or hasn't signed up yet.
- For all of the above reasons, homes with natural gas, on average, have a 6% higher resale value than non-gas homes. (Source: NHBA – National Home Builders Association)

Reliable

- After a hurricane or storm, when the power goes out, people with natural gas water heaters and ranges can still take hot showers and cook meals until the power comes back.
- Natural gas stand-by generators are also available, capable of powering an entire household, to sustain operation for all standard electric appliances as well.

Environmentally Friendly

- The direct use of natural gas by homes and businesses dramatically reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. (Imagine if the entire world switched to natural gas and stopped using so much oil and coal.)
- The more compressed natural gas (CNG) used for transportation, the less foreign oil needed to import.

Domestic

- Natural gas is America's own natural resource - building independence from foreign oil.
- In Florida, because of natural gas' affordability and clean burning nature, 85% of the natural gas consumed in Florida is by power companies.
- We have enough natural gas in the America's to last for hundreds of years.

Public Safety Awareness

Recognizing a gas leak

Natural gas is flammable – and if released and contacted by a source of ignition – natural gas can ignite. That’s why using your sense of sight, sound and smell are imperative for recognizing a suspected leak. Here’s what you should look for:

- SIGHT: Near a gas leak, you might see bubbling water, distinct patches of dead vegetation, or blowing dirt. Flames may also appear if the leak is ignited.
- SOUND: A hissing or roaring noise may indicate a leaking pipeline.
- SMELL: Natural gas is odorized with Mercaptan – which smells like rotten eggs – in order to help you detect a leak. If you notice a rotten egg odor, it’s important to report the smell of natural gas immediately.

Responding to a gas leak

While it’s important to report the smell of natural gas immediately, you should only do so once you’re in a safe location. Here’s what you SHOULD DO – and SHOULD NOT DO – if a leak occurs.

- Leave the home or building immediately, and get to a safe area
- From a safe area, call 911 and the City of Williston at (352) 528-3060 or afterhours call the Williston Police Department at (352) 528-4991
- Warn others to get to a safe area
- DO NOT try to stop, locate or make contact with the leak
- DO NOT use your phone or cell phone at the location
- DO NOT send a text
- DO NOT start any vehicles
- DO NOT light a match or turn light switches on or off
- DO NOT switch on or off anything electrical or do anything to create a spark
- DO NOT attempt to extinguish any fire or operate any valves

Damage Prevention

Calling 811 before excavating

Excavation damage is the leading cause of pipeline accidents. Before you start any excavation activity on your property, you are required by state law to call 811: the national toll-free number for people to call before they begin any excavation project.

This pertains to EVERYONE. Homeowners putting in pools, clotheslines, mail boxes, flowers, and playground equipment need to also consider that there could be underground lines that could be tapped into. ANYTIME you dig for any reason a call needs to be placed to the City building official at 352-628-7904 to see if a building permit will be required for the job.

When you call 811 from anywhere in the country, your call will be routed to your State One-Call Center. One easy FREE phone call to 811 starts the process to get your underground pipelines and utility lines

marked. In fact, natural gas operators will mark the location of their lines at no cost to you. Once your underground lines have been marked for your project, you will know the approximate location of your pipelines and utility lines. This means you can dig safely!

Check out <http://www.sunshine811.com/> for more information on 811 – Call before you dig.



Here's what the flags or other physical markings mean to guide you before you dig:

White	proposed excavation
Blue	potable water
Green	sewers and drain lines
Purple	reclaimed water and irrigation
Pink	temporary survey markings
Red	electric power lines, cables, conduit and lightning cables
Yellow	gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
Orange	communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduits

Call 811 before you dig or visit the [Sunshine 811](http://www.sunshine811.com/) website. This is a free service to help keep Williston safe!

Who is required to notify Sunshine 811?

Anyone who intends to excavate (disturb the surface of the earth) in Florida, unless a specific exemption listed in s. 556.108, F.S., applies.

I've hit a gas line; what do I do now?

Whether there is visible damage or not, you must stop excavating. If lives or property are in danger, call 911 immediately. Then notify the owner of the affected underground facility directly. **Excavators and members may access the emergency contact book using Internet Ticket Entry. Others can call Sunshine State One Call at (800) 638-4097.**