

Florence Energy News

ENERGY SAVINGS TIPS

FOR THE WINTER

You can cut your energy use and help control living costs by making your home energy efficient. Listed below are a few suggestions.



- Warm air rises, so use registers to direct warm airflow across the floor.
- Use ceiling fans in the winter to distribute heat around a room.
- Install a humidifier to add moisture and comfort if the air in your home is too dry.
- Close off unused rooms to conserve heat within your house.
- Use exhaust fans sparingly when bathing or cooking; the heat and moisture help to heat your home.
- Have your furnace or central heating unit checked at least once a year before the heating season to ensure it is working efficiently.
- Carpet adds comfort and warmth, especially if there is little or no floor insulation.
- Insulate your water heater to make it highly efficient, especially if the water heater is in an unheated area.
- Keep vents and chimneys clean and in good working order.
- Remove dust and lint from return air grills and warm air outlets.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for thermostat settings. A medium or low setting will save on energy costs.
- On sunny days, open draperies and blinds to let the sun's warmth into your home. Close them at dusk.

Clean or replace furnace filters regularly and have the entire system checked annually by a professional.

PREVENTING HEAT LOSS

- Proper insulation will preserve warm air in your home and save money on your utility bill. Check with an insulation contractor about the type and amount of insulation your home needs.
- Prevent heat loss with storm windows and doors.
- Use duct tape to inexpensively repair any cracks, holes, or separations in your duct work.
- Weather-strip or caulk cracks or gaps around doors and windows.
- Keep radiators clear of obstacles to prevent heat loss.
- When you are not using your fireplace, make sure the damper is closed.
- Place a throw rug at the bottom of doors to keep cold air out.
- Close curtains at night and on windy days. Also, go in and out of doors only when necessary.

ATTENTION

FLORENCE UTILITIES WILL BE CLOSED

THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER 25-26 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

SEWER BACKUP OR SLOW DRAIN:

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

As a customer of the City of Florence wastewater system (sewer), you may occasionally experience problems with drains that go down slowly or backup. There are two main reasons that this may occur. There may be a blockage in your private sewer service line, or there may be a blockage in the City's main sewer line that you connect to. How do you know, and what should you do?

The customer's private sewer line is the line that is connected to your household plumbing on one end and to the City's main sewer line on the other end. The homeowner or business is responsible for the maintenance of this line, and it may require that you contact a plumber to correct the problem. To determine what you should do, first check with your neighbors on each side of you. If they are experiencing no problems, then the problem is most likely a problem with your lines. Before you contact a plumber and to avoid an unnecessary service call, the City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department recommends that you contact our department first to assist you in determining whether the problem is the City's main or your private sewer service line. There is no charge for this service.

To contact the City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department for assistance, please call 760-6637, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. After hours, holidays, and weekends, please call 764-4456.

This is the first article of a series of three.

NEXT MONTH:

Sewer Backflow Valve: What is it?

**THE CITY OF FLORENCE
STREET DEPARTMENT
LEAF COLLECTION ANNOUNCEMENT**

As the season changes, the cool crisp air becomes filled with leaves. The City of Florence Street Department would like to offer these tips for residential leaf collection.



- ◇ Please rake leaves to the edge of your yard near the curb, but away from any obstacles such as trees, fences, or mail boxes.
- ◇ Keep these piles free of limbs and other trash as these can clog the vacuum truck and slow our progress.
- ◇ Bagged leaves will be collected by the regular trucks, not the vacuum trucks.
- ◇ Please do not let raked leaves cover your water meter.
- ◇ It is not necessary to phone the City of Florence Street Department for leaf pick up as our routes will repeat throughout the City during the season.



December - January Calendar of Events

- December 1:** **Downtown Florence Open House and Festival of Lights**
 Location: Downtown Florence
 Hours: 5 pm
 Admission: Free
 Contact: 760-9648
- December 1-10:** **Festival of Trees**
 Contact: 765-4201
- December 8:** **Downtown Florence Christmas Parade**
 Location: Court Street - Florence
 Hours: 7 pm
 Admission: Free
 Contact: 760-9648
- December 8:** **Pope's Tavern Christmas Open House & Every Light a Prayer for Peace**
 Location: Pope's Tavern
 Hours: 6 pm
 Admission: Free
 Contact: 760-6439
- December 16:** **NCAA Division II National Championship Football Game**
 Location: Braly Stadium - Florence
 Hours: 11 am Kickoff
 Admission: \$20 Ticket
 Contact: 764-4661
- January 16:** **A & E Medical Health Screening**
 Location: 235 Azalea Drive
 Hours: 9 am - 1 pm
 Admission: Free
 Contact: 764-6633



Florence ENERGY

NEWS YOU CAN USE FROM FLORENCE UTILITIES

This winter, to help you stay warm without raising costs, we have included information about how to prevent heat loss and listed energy savings tips. Check out this article and start conserving energy today.

To keep our utility customers more informed, the City of Florence Water/Wastewater Department has put together a series of three articles about sewer lines. The first article, *Sewer Backup or Slow Drain: What Should I Do?* appears in this issue. This article includes helpful information about what you should do if you are having problems with sewer line blockages.

As the season changes, the cool crisp air becomes filled with leaves. The City of Florence Street Department has provided tips for residential leaf collection. Please look over the tips that are listed on the back.

From all of us at Florence Utilities, may you have safe, warm, and happy holidays.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!