

pilotLight

Late Summer Savings: Natural Gas Outdoor Grills

With multiple installation options, gas grills make outdoor cooking fun, safe and convenient

Natural gas grills are a popular choice for homeowners. Just as with indoor gas cooktops, outdoor gas grills offer weekend chefs speed and control over the food being cooked. They're safe, convenient and cost less to operate than a conventional charcoal grill. In fact, to cook a meal for six, it typically costs about eight times more on a charcoal grill than it does on a natural gas unit.

With natural gas, there are no cumbersome tanks to refill as with propane grills, and you avoid the messy cleanup after using charcoal. Gas grills also have the advantage of multiple installation options: permanently mounted on a post or built into a brick structure, or portable by using a quick disconnect valve to allow for storage and transportation.

Maintenance and safety

As with any appliance, proper maintenance and safe operating practices are critical. Here are a few tips:

- Don't wear loose clothing when operating your gas grill.
- Keep children and pets at a safe distance.
- Shut off the gas supply or disconnect before you clean or perform maintenance work on your grill.
- Before using a gas grill, make sure all the connections are tight and there are no cracks in the hose.
- Make sure the grill's burners are clear, as well as the tubes from the burners to the gas valve.



- Always keep the lid open when lighting the grill to prevent gas from causing a sudden flare up.
- Clean the burners with a wire brush.
- Coals are self-cleaning. Follow manufacturer's instructions to burn off food residue and grease drippings.

A natural gas grill can help make outdoor cooking fun, convenient and safe. Visit jocarroll.com for more about natural gas uses.

DID YOU KNOW . . . about natural gas in the home?



Outdoor home appliances using natural gas include **barbeques, pool and hot tub heaters, and outdoor fire pits.**

Access your account information online, on the go

- Bill Payment
- Set Alerts and Reminders
- Sign up for e-Bill

For easy and convenient account management, Jo-Carroll Energy offers the MyAccount Member Services Portal, accessed through our web site at www.jocarroll.com.

Members visiting the portal for the first time will need to register. You will need your account number for registration.

Now available are our mobile apps for smart phones and devices to keep you connected on the go.

The apps, available through the Android and Apple stores by searching JCE Mobile, are designed so you can easily manage your account details, view your bill and account balance, make payments, schedule alerts and reminders and receive push notifications.



Natural Gas Safety: Protecting Your Family

Natural gas is used in millions of homes for space heating, water heating and cooking. Although it's safe and reliable, natural gas can be hazardous if used improperly. These simple precautions will help to ensure the safety of your family.

Carbon monoxide poisoning

One of the dangers of poorly maintained or improperly used gas appliances and equipment is carbon monoxide poisoning. Poor ventilation can lead to a buildup of this deadly gas, causing sickness and even death. Reduce your risk with these safety tips:

- Install carbon monoxide detectors, which measure the amount of this gas in the air and alert occupants before it reaches dangerous levels.
- Have natural gas appliances and equipment inspected regularly by a qualified professional.
- Inspect the vents and flues of gas water heaters, furnaces and fireplaces to ensure the exhaust is properly ventilated. If you suspect a problem, contact a qualified repair technician.

Gas line leaks

Though rare, natural gas line leaks can be dangerous. The most telling sign is a rotten egg smell. This unpleasant odor comes from a harmless chemical, mercaptan, which is added to natural gas to make detection easier. If you suspect a gas leak:

- Don't attempt to find it yourself

- Don't shut off any electrical equipment
- Leave the premises immediately and contact your natural gas utility

Contact Jo-Carroll Energy if you smell natural gas outside your home. Call 811 to have underground utility lines marked before doing any renovation or outdoor projects that require digging.

Gas appliances and equipment

Fuel-fired equipment and appliances can cause fires or explosions if they're not cleaned and maintained properly. Follow these safety tips:

- Keep the area around appliances and equipment free of flammable materials.
- Have furnaces, boilers and water heaters inspected and maintained regularly by a qualified professional.
- Make sure heating equipment and flues are in good working order.
- Keep the air intakes and drainpipes on water heaters unobstructed. Follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding maintenance or the installation of insulation blankets.

Gas appliances and equipment should be installed by a qualified professional. Contact your local building inspector or fire marshal regarding any building or fire code issues.

Planning an outdoor project? Call 811 first!

Make sure your plans include calling 811 before you dig anytime you're doing an outdoor project. Any type of digging requires a call. If not, you could be putting yourself in danger and facing costly repair bills.

Here are some projects that could result in preventable gas line damages:

1. **Planting a tree or shrub.** A tree or shrub could be planted deep enough to interfere with a gas line. Gas lines and other utilities may be a lot shallower than you think.

2. **Building a deck or patio.** Digging holes for posts? Call 811 before you dig.
3. **Installing a fence or mailbox.** Even something quick and simple like digging a small hole for a mailbox post could end up puncturing your gas line.

Remember: Always call 811 before you start any digging project. You can help avoid injury, expense, and a very inconvenient day with services like natural gas, electricity or internet.



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STAY IN TOUCH



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