



WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

While the onset of the cold season will vary depending on your region, it's a good rule of thumb to begin the process of winterizing your home in early fall. If you decide to DIY it, this will give you plenty of time to do it at your own pace. However, if you are hiring a pro, you will need to schedule service appointments as soon as possible—perhaps even request them during the summer—so that you can get any necessary work completed before the weather turns for the worse.

Winterizing your home means preparing it both inside and out for the cold weather. The following tasks don't necessarily have to be completed in order, but they should all be completed by the time the cold weather arrives.

1. Clean the Gutters

Gutters are the workhorses of your home's exterior. They direct rainwater and snow away from your roof to prevent water from seeping in and causing damage. But gutters can't do this very important job when they're clogged with dead leaves and other debris. Whether you hire someone to do it for you or climb a ladder yourself, make sure your gutters are clear before the first snowfall.

TIP: A telescoping gutter wand makes it easier and faster to clean your gutters.

2. Inspect the Roof and Attic

Now's the time to make any repairs to your roof so that it won't leak in the rain or the snow. If you have

an attic, replace or add insulation to keep drafts out.

TIP: Be sure to wear gloves whenever you are handling fiberglass insulation.

3. Check the Chimney

If you have a fireplace, you'll want to make sure the chimney is clear of any buildup. A dirty chimney can be a fire hazard, so hire a chimney sweep to ensure it's clear and you can build fires safely all season.

TIP: If you don't actively use your fireplace, inflate a chimney balloon and plug up the space to keep out the cold.

4. Weatherproof Windows and Doors

Cold air can creep in through windows and doors, so be sure to replace any weatherstripping around them. Apply caulking to seal any gaps around windows—you can also do this for any cracks in the siding, too. Unless you have newer, energy-efficient windows, you can apply window film to keep out the cold. A door sweep installed on the bottom of your door can keep drafts out, too.

TIP: To find the source of a draft, hold a lit candle a couple of inches away from a window or door. If the flame is extinguished, apply caulking or weatherstripping to that spot.

5. Protect the Pipes

Frozen pipes can burst during the winter and cause major problems for homeowners. Here are some things you can do to avoid this wintertime nightmare:

- Know the location of your main water shutoff so that you can access it quickly in an emergency.
- Drain the water from outdoor sprinkler systems and garden hoses. Disconnect garden hoses from faucets and store them in a garage or shed. Cover the faucets.
- Fix or replace any broken windows so that cold air can't get into a room and freeze pipes, particularly in the basement.
- Walk the perimeter of your

home and close off any other vents that you might have opened during the warmer weather.

TIP: If you're going to be away from your home during the winter, be sure to keep your thermostat set to about 55 degrees Fahrenheit. A programmable thermostat makes it easy to keep your house at the right temperature so that your pipes won't freeze.

6. Service the HVAC system

Replace your furnace filter and schedule a service appointment so that your heating system is ready to go before you need it. This might mean scheduling a service call when you've got your AC pumping during the summer because service appointments can be hard to get during the height of the season.

TIP: If you live in a climate where there are four distinct seasons, have your HVAC serviced twice a year so that it runs well in both the cold weather and hot weather.

7. Prepare Your Patio and Deck

This is particularly important if you live in a region where snow is likely. Cover patio furniture with weatherproof covers or, if possible, store it away in a garage or shed. If your deck is wooden, a fresh coat of sealant will protect it in wet weather.

TIP: Some patio furniture can be left out in the cold weather without being damaged. It all depends on the material used in making it. Teak furniture, for example, can stand up to winter, though furniture made from other types of wood cannot. When in doubt, cover or store your outdoor furniture.

Information provided on Forbes Advisor is for educational purposes only.



Our offices will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday, November 24, 2022, and again on Friday, November 25, 2022. Our offices will resume regular hours of operation on Monday, November 28, 2022.

COST OF GAS ADJUSTMENTS FOR COMING YEAR

Zia Natural Gas Company has applied to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to adjust its Gas Cost Factor for the next year, effective October 1, 2022. The cost of purchasing and transporting gas to the Zia Natural Gas system is passed directly through to the customer as a Gas Cost Factor. A regulated utility is not allowed to mark up the cost of gas. Zia Natural Gas Company negotiates our contracts every year in an effort to ensure the best possible price in the market for our customers. Currently, our average residential customer in New Mexico uses 30 ccf in October.

As always, Zia Natural Gas Company encourages all of our customers to winterize their homes and conserve energy by lowering the thermostat when not at home. Zia also offers rebates for installing more

energy efficient natural gas appliances. Winterizing guidelines can be found on our website at www.zngc.com. For customers who need help with winter heating bills, assistance is available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at your local New Mexico Human Services Division office.

	Gas Cost Factor (\$ per ccf)		Average Residential Bill		Effect on Average Bill
	Effective 8/1/22	Effective 10/1/22	8/1/22	10/1/22	
Colfax County	0.6836	0.7347	\$46.21	\$47.88	Increase of 4%
Dona Ana County	0.9007	1.043	\$53.91	\$58.57	Increase of 9%
Lea County	0.6684	1.0798	\$46.63	\$60.09	Increase of 29%
Lincoln County	0.5865	0.9474	\$42.79	\$54.59	Increase of 28%

Recipe
DIRECTIONS

Fall Chicken Skillet

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon olive oil	1 medium onion, sliced thin
1-pound, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch cubes	2 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and cut into 1-inch cubes
Salt and Pepper	½ teaspoon dried thyme
4 tablespoons Chef Shamy Garlic Butter	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2-3 cups Brussel Sprouts, trimmed and halved	1 cup chicken broth, divided
1 medium butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes	2 ounces crumbled bacon

Directions

1. In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat until shimmering. Add cubed chicken and season with salt and pepper. Cook until browned and cooked through, about five minutes. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
2. Add Garlic Butter to the skillet. Allow to melt, then add Brussels sprouts, butternut squash, and onion. Season with more salt and pepper, and cook until almost tender, about 8-10 minutes.
3. Add apple cubes, thyme, cinnamon, and ½ cup chicken broth. Stir to combine and cook until the broth has cooked off, about 2 minutes.
4. Add the rest of broth and the reserved chicken. Stir to combine.
5. Take off the heat and garnish with crumbled bacon and serve.

For more delicious recipes using Chef Shamy Gourmet Butters visit www.chefshamy.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Every Wednesday And Saturday – Las Cruces - Farmers & Crafts Market 8 AM to 1 PM. The award-winning, outdoor Farmers & Crafts Market spans seven full blocks of North Main Street in Downtown Las Cruces.

First Friday of Every Month – Las Cruces - Art Ramble 5-8 PM. The Downtown Las Cruces Partnership hosts this monthly event showcasing a dozen participating museums and galleries in the Arts & Cultural District.

Second Saturday of Every Month – Las Cruces - Art Hop 6-9 PM. The City of Truth or Consequences comes alive with local art, downtown in the commercial/hot springs district.

November 2 - December 17 – Hobbs - Fabulous Fiber Art Show Opens at Noon. Center for the Arts. 122 W Broadway, Hobbs, NM

November 11-13 – Ruidoso - 35th Christmas Jubilee at the Ruidoso Convention Center. The event is hosted by the Ruidoso Valley Greeters. For more information call 575-937-2040 or visit www.ruidosochristmasjubilee.com.

November 13 – Hobbs - Veterans Day Parade and Concert Parade 10 AM, City Hall – 200 E Broadway St. Concert 10 PM Rockwind Golf Course – 5001 Jack Gomez Blvd

November 16-23 – Hobbs - Free Adoption 6 AM to 5 PM. The Lea County Humane Society and City of Hobbs Animal Adoption Center. 702 N. Grimes St., Hobbs, NM 88240

November 21 – Hobbs - Toy Drive 11 AM - 4 PM. Albertsons Market, 2402 N Grimes Street, Hobbs, NM

November 25 – Hobbs - MaMa E's Thanksgiving Drive-Thru Noon - 2 PM. ChooseLife Church Parking Lot, 700 N Dal Paso, Hobbs, NM

November 26 – Ruidoso - Ruidoso Turkey Trot 10:00 AM 12:00 PM, White Mountain Recreation Complex. Put on your running shoes for the 5K Ruidoso Turkey Trot, an annual fun Run-Walk on the Links Trail to support the Lincoln County Food Bank. The entrance fee is one or more cans of food. Questions? Call Parks & Recreation at 575-257-5030

November 26 – Las Cruces - Las Cruces Growers Cup 420 @ 505. 11 AM The New Mexico Cannabis Tourism Association presents a marketing and advertising event for the nascent industry, featuring booths and vendors offering information and legal products. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

November 26 – Las Cruces - Mannheim Steamroller Christmas Pan American Center. 7:30 PM Chip Davis, founder and creator of the Grammy Award-winning musical experience celebrates over 35 years of touring Christmas concerts, with classic hits from his vast sonic library along with multimedia effects in an intimate setting.

November 29 - December 4 – Hobbs - Boys and Girls Club Basketball Sign Ups Nov. 29 at 6 PM and Dec 4 at 2 PM. Boys & Girls Club of Hobbs. 301 E Broadway St, Hobbs, NM 88240

Reminder: We use this section for our local communities. The messages must be non-partisan and non-religious. Non-Profit organization messages will be given preference. Please send the information to osaucedo@zngc.com before the 10th of the month to make the following month edition. Thank you.

Excess Flow Valve Notification for Residential Customers

As required by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) pipeline safety regulation, 49 CFR 192.383, you are hereby notified that an excess flow valve ("EFV") which meets the minimum DOT performance standards is available for installation on your natural gas service line that operates continuously throughout the year at a pressure not less than 10 psig and does not meet the conditions of 49 CFR-PART 192.383 paragraph (c). Please note that an EFV is not required for the normal, safe operation of your service line, but could help mitigate the consequences of a service line break or rupture.



An EFV is designed to shut off and/or significantly restrict the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line to the customer breaks due to excavation, earthquakes, fire, run over meter sets, augers or other causes. A service line is the piping from the gas distribution main to the customer meter set and may run underground through the customer's yard. EFVs generally do not protect against slow leaks like those caused by loose fittings or leaks beyond the gas meter such as house piping and customer appliances. While the use of an EFV may help to limit the effects of such an incident, the best way to avoid excavation damages is to ensure that those who may have reason to be excavating on your property call 811 prior to digging.

Installation of an EFV is not mandatory. However, if you would like to have an EFV installed in an existing natural gas service line, Zia Natural Gas Company will complete such an installation at a mutually agreeable date for a base cost of \$600 when installed in a plastic service line or a base cost of \$950 when installed in a steel service line. These costs are for labor and material only, and do not include cost(s) associated with local excavation permits, paving, or landscaping work that may be required following the installation. Such costs, if any, will be the responsibility of the property owner. A cost estimate will be provided by Zia Natural Gas Company upon request.

Zia Natural Gas Company makes no warranties, expressed, implied or otherwise, for continued proper excess flow valve operation under any use conditions and/or for inadvertent valve closure under varying gas system operating conditions.

Questions may be addressed to your local Zia Natural Gas Company Office.



Veterans Day, originally celebrated as Armistice Day, was first issued on November 11, 1919, by President Woodrow Wilson a year after the end of World War I. The purpose of Armistice Day was to honor the fallen soldiers of the Great War for their sacrifice and bravery. Seven years later, in 1926, Congress adopted a resolution requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations on November 11, making Armistice Day a legal holiday.

"There is a certain enthusiasm in liberty, that makes human nature rise above itself, in acts of bravery heroism." – Alexander Hamilton



New Mexico's Natural Choice...Zia Natural Gas Company
Proudly celebrating over 30 years of service
and looking forward to many more!

Zia Natural Gas Company area offices:

Lincoln County 100 Short Drive Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346 575-378-4277 1-800-520-4277 (575) 378-4138 Fax Mailing Address PO Box 888 Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346	Hobbs/Jal 510 E. Bender Hobbs, NM 88240 575-392-4277 1-800-470-9900 (575) 392-8504 Fax Mailing Address PO Box 2220 Hobbs, NM 88241	Dona Ana County 3700 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88007 575-526-4427 1-800-453-5546 (575) 523-4945 Fax Mailing Address 3700 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88007	Maxwell-Cimarron-Springer 316 Maxwell Ave. Maxwell, NM 87728 575-375-2277 1-800-520-4277 (575) 375-2753 Fax Mailing Address PO Box 357 Maxwell, NM 87728
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