

## PREPARE FOR COLD WEATHER

Don't wait until cold weather is here before making sure your home's heating system is working properly. Stay warm, cozy and safe this winter by preparing now. Follow these tips:

- **Have a licensed heating contractor perform a pre-winter furnace tune-up.** A clean, well-maintained furnace may help your heating system run at maximum efficiency. Refer to a local directory or search online for licensed heating contractors.

- **Change the furnace filter monthly.** A dirty filter restricts the flow of heated air from the furnace, causing it to work harder and deliver less heat.
- **Make sure vents in the house are not obstructed.** A furnace works less when heated air is not blocked and cooler air can circulate back freely.

**Keeping the furnace running efficiently will help keep you warm all winter long.**

## ENERGY-SAVING TIPS FOR WINTER

- **Install a programmable thermostat** to lower heat when you're away or sleeping.
- **Check and replace** furnace filters regularly for efficiency.
- **Use a humidifier** to make air feel warmer and reduce heating needs.
- **Adjust registers**—partially close upstairs ones since heat rises.
- **Use window coverings** to retain heat; open them on sunny days for warmth.
- **Rearrange furniture** away from windows and avoid blocking vents.
- **Limit use of exhaust fans**—they can remove warm air quickly.
- **Seal ceiling fan mounts** with caulk to prevent heat loss.
- **Install insulation** gaskets behind outlet and switch plates.
- **Keep closet and cabinet doors closed** if they're on exterior walls.

09/2025

# BALANCED BILLING

## Take the guesswork out of

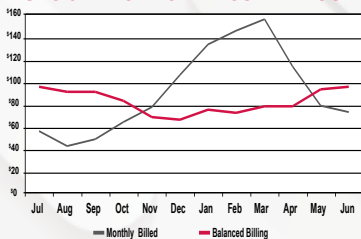
**budgeting:** Balanced Billing provides customers a way to avoid the highs and lows associated with normal monthly billing. This plan helps take the guesswork out of budgeting for utility bills.



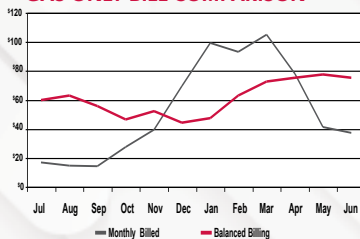
**How Balanced Billing works:** A customer's monthly bill is computed by taking an average of their natural gas usage during the previous 11 months and the current month's usage. Current energy rates are then applied to this average monthly usage to calculate the current payment due. Averaging a customer's usage over the year can reduce large cost fluctuations from extreme weather conditions.

**Utility bill comparison examples:** The graphs illustrate the fluctuation of a customer's normal monthly bill compared to a Balanced Billing average.

**GAS & ELECTRIC BILL COMPARISON**



**GAS ONLY BILL COMPARISON**



**To sign up for Balanced Billing, visit**

**[www.montana-dakota.com](http://www.montana-dakota.com) or call 800-638-3278**



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## IS YOUR PILOT LIGHT WORKING?

Cooler weather will be here before you know it, and you don't want to be caught off guard on a chilly night. If your pilot light needs to be lit, avoid the rush and the weather, contact a licensed heating vendor.

Average low temperatures for Montana-Dakota customers are in the high 40's in September and 30's in October. It is hard to predict when the first cold snap will hit, but you can be ready for it.

For a list of licensed heating contractors visit

**[www.montana-dakota.com/rates-and-services/trade-ally-program](http://www.montana-dakota.com/rates-and-services/trade-ally-program)**  
refer to your local directory or search online.



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