



BRainerd PUBLIC UTILITIES

Business Number: 829-8726 @ Your Service Repair Number: 829-2193



Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Hydro—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Hydro—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Hydro—Electricity—Water—Hydro

Winter Home Tips

Switch ceiling fans (reverse them) spring and fall. If you have heated floors turn off the ceiling fans, if you have forced air heat, turn them on.

Close the doors and vents in unused rooms if you are trying to reduce heating costs or keep your living space warmer in an emergency. Note: Be careful not to let rooms get too cold if they have plumbing, so you don't end up with frozen pipes.

Make sure you aren't blocking airflow from forced air vents, and that the vents are open where you need heat. Don't block your vents with furniture, piles of dirty clothes or other debris.

If you have a chimney and are not using it, make sure its flue and draft (if it has both) are closed. Open chimneys can suck the heat right out of your home. (This is one of the biggest issues with open fireplaces – too much heat loss from the room.) Consider blocking the chimney with a fireplace insert insulation to reduce heat loss if it will be left unused indefinitely – just don't forget to take it out if you decide to use it again.

Replace bathroom exhaust vent switches with timers so vents aren't accidentally left running.



Insulate hot water/radiator pipes and ductwork running through non-living areas. You don't want that heat dumped in a crawl space or utility area, you want it to get your house warm.

Attic access or attic doors can be the source of large amounts of heat loss. Make sure your attic access is VERY well insulated.

Uncover the south facing windows to let in solar heat on sunny days.

Add interior window insulation using something like a 3m insulation kit. These window insulating kits can be combined with the shades or curtains.

For a cheap short term solution, use duct tape and an old blanket to cover your windows. It's ugly, but functional.

When you finish baking, leave the oven door open slightly to let the home get all that wonderful heat. Winter is a great time to practice your homemade bread baking skills. If you froze fruits and berries in the summer, winter is a perfect time to finish your jam and jelly making.

Your pets are mobile heaters. Consider cuddling if it gets really cold. Our cats think movie time is the best thing ever since they have nice warm humans to nap on.



Keep blankets and lap rugs handy and use them. When we sit, our circulation slows down. Keeping a throw blanket over your lap while you're knitting or watching TV can improve your comfort levels without turning up the thermostat.



Be sure to test smoke detectors and replace the batteries. Newer homes have electric smoke detectors, but they also have battery backup that should be checked. Have a safe and warm winter!



Gopher State One



Call Gopher State One at 1-800-252-1166 for water & electric locations 48 hours before digging begins.

ALL Electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection form to be filed."

Prevent Water Pipe & Meter Freeze-Up

Check the cold air intake for your furnace to ensure the cold air does not come into direct contact with the concrete floor, water meter or pipes.

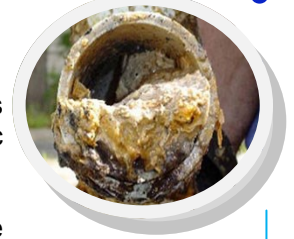


BPU office will be closed Thursday, November 28 and Friday November 29. We will re-open on Monday, December 2 at 7 am.

Happy Thanksgiving

KEEP FATS, OILS & GREASE Out Of Our Sewers

Fats, oils, and grease resulting from food preparation can build up in the sewer pipes and cause costly blockage and backups and sewage overflows to private and public property.



Tips to keep drains fat-free: Pour fats, oils, and grease into a container and store in the freezer, then put in the trash after it has hardened. Use paper towels to wipe greasy dishes before washing. Use sink strainers to catch food waste when washing.

Join Your Neighbors Who Care By Giving To HeatShare

HeatShare is a voluntary program administered by The Salvation Army. When you give you are helping warm the lives of the elderly, disabled, and others who have nowhere else to turn. It helps the needy survive our long winter by providing funds for heating bills and heating related repairs.

HeatShare is a last resort for many who have no other resources available to see them through the winter. You can also donate online at <https://donate.salvationarmyusa.org/northern/heatshare>

Who is eligible for HeatShare?

- Seniors with low incomes and no alternate source of help.
- Disabled people whose physical capabilities limit their ability to maintain income to adequately cover energy bills.
- People who have had unexpected emergencies within the last 12 months and as a result cannot pay for household energy costs.
- People who meet income guidelines and have received or applied for all other possible public funds.



share the warmth

Who supports HeatShare?

You, neighbors, friends, people in big cities, people in small towns, and businesses all help by sending a tax deductible contribution with the form provided below.

HeatShare is one way a small amount can help in a BIG way.

YES! I want to contribute to HeatShare

I am making a one-time contribution of: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Account Number: _____

Signature: _____

Please make check payable to HeatShare & enclose this form with your utility payment in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your generous tax deductible contribution!

Cold Warm
Hands Hearts.