



# Connected

## Use Space Heaters Wisely

Space heaters are a terrific way to supplement your regular heating system. If used correctly, they can keep your family warm and safe all winter long. According to the National Fire Protection Association, space heaters are also involved in many home fires.

### When using a space heater, follow these simple precautions:

- Purchase a portable space heater certified for safe operation by the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) or another nationally-recognized testing organization.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from the space heater. This includes children and pets, as well as bedding, furniture, and drapes. Do not place heaters where towels or other objects could fall on the heater and start a fire.
- Place the heater on a level, hard, non-flammable surface. Do not attempt to use electric heaters in wet places, such as a bathroom, unless they are certified for that purpose. Corrosion or damage to heater parts may cause a fire or electric shock.
- Turn off the heater when leaving a room or going to bed. Children should not be permitted to adjust the controls or move the heater.
- Plug only one space heater into an electric outlet at a time. Avoid using extension cords and never hide cords under rugs or carpets. Do not attempt to operate a damaged space heater.

**Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires**

**Did you know?** **As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!**

**Half of all home heating fires** occur in December, January and February.

Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source.

 **U.S. Fire Administration**  **NFPA**

For more tips on keeping your home warm this winter, visit [MariettaPowerandWater.com](http://MariettaPowerandWater.com), click on the Residential Tab in the top navigation, then click on Energy Saving Tips. ☀

## Prepare Your Garden for the Warmer Weather Now

Although the ground may still be frozen, plant the seeds now for big water savings this spring. Whether you are gearing up for an annual flower bed or a vegetable garden, here is how you can get more done with less water.

- Check faucets and hose connections for leaks. A leak in an outside faucet can waste 170 gallons (about twice the volume of a bathtub) of water in 24 hours.
- Water hoses often use more water than necessary. A  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch hose carries more than 1,000 gallons in an hour. Reduce your garden hose size to half an inch for watering — it is lighter and provides about 600 gallons an hour.

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- Use a nozzle that can be adjusted to fine spray. When you are finished watering, shut off the water at the house instead of at the nozzle to avoid leaks.
- Check your sprinklers to be sure they are properly adjusted and are watering your plants and not the sidewalk.

**By taking these few simple steps, both your yard and your wallet will be ready to welcome spring! For more ways to save water, visit [MariettaPowerandWater.com](http://MariettaPowerandWater.com), click on the Residential tab in the top navigation, then click on Conserve & Protect.** ☀



## Pay Your Utility Bill in the Checkout Line



The CheckOut by PayGo cash payment option allows you to pay a portion of or all your utility bill anytime you shop. You can pay your entire bill once a month or a portion of your bill every week. It is up to you!

Current participating retail stores include Walmart, CVS Pharmacies, Family Dollar, Dollar General and Walgreens.

**Visit [www.mpwcheckout.com](http://www.mpwcheckout.com) for more information and instructions. You will need your account number to log in. A convenience fee of \$1.95 will be added to each cash payment.** ☀

## Sign Up for Outage Notifications

To sign up for outage notifications, visit [MariettaPowerandWater.com](http://MariettaPowerandWater.com), click on Commercial or Residential in the top navigation, then click Outage Notifications. Once on the Outage Notification page, click the Outage Notification Sign Up bar and fill out the form. You will need the cycle and route number from your utility bill. Then click the Verify My Account button at the bottom of the page. It's that easy! ☀

## Calendar of Events

### Marietta the Gathering

**Saturday, March 4**

10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Marietta Square

The festival will include the Guild Show, a collection of art makers, merchandisers, crafters, and smiths; Turney Alley, a street full of board games, card tournaments, and possibly video game arcade and more. For more information, visit [mariettaga.gov/1480/Marietta-the-Gathering](http://mariettaga.gov/1480/Marietta-the-Gathering).

For a complete list of City of Marietta events, please visit [www.mariettaga.gov](http://www.mariettaga.gov) and click on Calendar of Events.

### Get city news by email

Visit [www.mariettaga.gov](http://www.mariettaga.gov) to subscribe to the City of Marietta's E-News mailing list to receive the latest news, events, job openings and emergency updates by email.

### Marietta Square Farmer's Market

**Saturdays Year Round**

9 a.m. until noon

41 Mill Street

(one block north of the Marietta Square)

**Visit [mariettasquarefarmersmarket.com](http://mariettasquarefarmersmarket.com) for more information.**