



Propane Shortage Guide Information and Assistance

Wisconsin residents must be ready for serious winter weather events, including the extreme cold temperatures that are predicted. High costs of propane, along with the current propane supply shortages in the Upper Midwest this winter, have made it harder than normal for some residents to make sure they have enough propane.

Many propane suppliers, cooperatives, and vendors have been working to help fill the supply shortage. This guide is intended to help Wisconsin's citizens prepare for and respond to this significant winter problem.

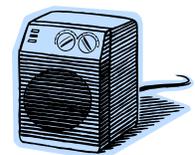
TIPS FOR PROPANE USERS:

- Check your tank level to determine the level of propane available. If you are unable to check your level, please contact a neighbor, friend, or your local law enforcement agency to help you.
- If your propane tank is below 30%, please contact your vendor for a fuel delivery. Do not wait until your tank is nearly out of fuel, as some vendors are not able to deliver immediately and/or may charge additional fees.
- Even if your tank is full or over 30%, lower the settings on your furnace thermostat and water heater to conserve the propane you have.
- Check on your neighbors frequently, especially the sick, disabled, isolated, and elderly.
- If you experience a heating emergency, contact the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at (715) 839-4718.
- Do not stay in your home if you do not have heat.



ELECTRIC HEATER SAFETY:

- If you use an electric space heater, only use those that are UL approved for indoor use.
- Do not plug heaters into extension cords.
- Do not use multiple space heaters, as this may overload the electrical circuits in your home and create a fire hazard.
- Clear the space around the heater of combustibles and other fire hazards.
- Place the heater on a level, noncombustible surface to prevent it from tipping over.



AVOID THESE HAZARDS:

- **DO NOT attempt to connect a small propane tank to your furnace. This is extremely unsafe and may cause serious damage to your home and may result in death.**
- **DO NOT heat your home with a gas or electric cooking stove.**
- **DO NOT heat your home with kerosene lanterns, portable heaters, or other appliances that are not intended for indoor use.**
- **NEVER run a car in an enclosed space.**
- **NEVER run a generator in the home or garage, or right next to windows or doors.**

LEAVING YOUR HOME:

If you must leave your home due to the propane shortage:

- Winterize your home to avoid property damage (broken water lines, etc.).
- Contact a local plumber to assist you in draining your water pipes.
- If you have a well, please be sure to shut the well pump electricity off.
- If you are leaving your home due to a no heat situation, please contact the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at (715) 839-4718.

DANGERS:

- With bitter temperatures be aware of hypothermia and frostbite. If you must be outside, wear proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions.
- Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. Symptoms of overexposure to carbon monoxide are often mistaken for the flu, and include headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath/chest pain, nausea/vomiting, and confusion. **If you or someone is experiencing these symptoms, or your carbon monoxide detector sounds an alarm, immediately seek shelter elsewhere and call 9-1-1.**
- If you are traveling, even short distances, make sure you have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle. Items to include: candles, matches, flashlight, pocket knife, snacks, cell phone adapter, a blanket, and extra clothing.

OTHER RESOURCES:

For additional information, please visit Ready Wisconsin at <http://ready.wi.gov/>

Households with incomes at or below 60% of the state median income may qualify for assistance under the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance program <http://www.homeenergyplus.wi.gov/>. Eligible households may receive financial grants to pay for home heating costs.

For more information contact the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services at (715) 839-2300 or humanservices@co.eau-claire.wi.us.