

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



Save energy and water this summer

Reduce your energy and water use for summer utility bill savings.

Save on electric bills

- » **Monitor your energy** use at coautilities.com.
- » **Change your AC filter** monthly in the summer to improve airflow and air quality.
- » **Raise your thermostat** by a few degrees.
- » **Use fans when you are in the room** to feel about 4 degrees cooler.
- » **Keep curtains and blinds closed** on windows hit by direct sunlight.
- » **Install LED light bulbs**, which use less electricity and generate less heat than incandescent bulbs.

Save on water bills

- » **Water your lawn only on your assigned day and times.** Find current watering schedules at austinwater.org.
- » **Take shorter showers** when you can — five minutes, tops. If you take a bath, fill the tub half full.
- » **Don't let the water run** while brushing your teeth.
- » **Install faucet aerators** and low-flow showerheads.
- » **Join the My ATX Water Customer Portal** to view water use data and get alerts from Austin Water. More at myatxwater.org.



Find more tips and tools to help you lower your utility bills during hot weather at austineenergy.com/summer.



Ensure your home is safe this fall

Fall is around the corner, and it's the perfect time to ensure your home is safe and up to code. Regular inspections and maintenance can prevent small issues from turning into big headaches later on.

What to look for:

- » **Indoors:** Check doors, windows, walls, floors, ceilings and electrical fixtures. Ensure your HVAC system can heat your home to at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit, and that all appliances are in good working order.
- » **Outdoors:** Inspect stairways, balconies, handrails and walls for damage. Make sure everything is secure and weather-tight to keep the elements out.

Whether you are a homeowner, tenant or landlord, the City of Austin Development Services Department wants to help you stay proactive, avoid costly repairs and ensure a safe, comfortable living environment. Find more information at austintexas.gov/safehome.

HSEM hosts Emergency Preparedness Fair Sept. 19

Central Texas is prone to a wide range of hazards, from flooding to wildfire, extreme heat to winter storms. To help you prepare, the City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) will be hosting the third annual **Get Ready Central Texas Emergency Preparedness Fair**. The date is set for **Thursday, Sept. 19 from 3-7 p.m. at the ACC Rio Grande campus (Building 3000, 3rd Floor)**. The fair is free, family friendly and open to the public.

Austin HSEM's booth will focus on the four steps to emergency preparedness: Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Stay Informed, and Know Your Neighbors. Other booths will also feature emergency preparedness and safety information.

While supplies last, attendees will receive a basic emergency kit, limit one per household. Copies of the Neighborhood Preparedness Guide will be available in English and Spanish to help attendees make an emergency plan for their home and neighborhood.

For more information, visit readycentraltexas.org.

Fight the bite day and night

Protect yourself from mosquitoes and the diseases they carry

Mosquitoes are not just annoying; they can also contribute to outbreaks of Zika, West Nile virus, dengue fever, encephalitis and canine heartworm. Effective mosquito control helps to prevent or reduce these outbreaks and enhances the enjoyment of outdoor activities by everyone in our community.

Here are a few things you can do to protect yourself from mosquitoes.

- » **Get rid of standing water** in your yard and neighborhood. Old tires, flowerpots, clogged rain gutters, birdbaths and wading pools can be breeding sites for mosquitoes.
- » **Use “mosquito dunks”** (Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis) to reduce mosquitoes in rain barrels and permanent bodies of water.
- » **Apply an insect repellent** containing DEET or other EPA-approved alternatives. Read and follow label



instructions. Spray both exposed skin and clothing with repellent.

- » **Wear pants and long sleeves** when you are outside. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing; mosquito repellent clothing is also available.
- » **Call 3-1-1** or use the **Austin 3-1-1** app to report a mosquito problem.

Learn more at austintexas.gov/mosquito.



Slow down to get around roadside utility workers

When driving in Texas, follow the “Slow Down to Get Around” law. This means slowing down and changing lanes when approaching waste and recycling vehicles that are in the process of collection, or other utility vehicles in the process of working. Driving slower and providing space helps prevent accidents and keeps our workers safe. Always watch for workers and their equipment and adjust your speed to keep everyone safe.

Be Considerate

Keep pets on a leash 6 feet long or less and always throw dog waste in the trash.

LEAVE NO TRACE

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/LEAVENOTRACE



It's back-to-school time!

Back-to-school time means extra caution is needed on our roadways. The City's Safe Routes to School program reminds everyone to follow these guidelines:

- » Drivers need to be more aware that children will be out walking and biking as school starts.
- » Children need to wear bright-colored clothing and carry a flashlight for visibility if it is dark.
- » Don't jaywalk! Cross at corners, crosswalks or traffic lights.
- » Stop, Look and Listen before you cross the street.
- » See and be seen! Look at drivers and make sure they look at you.
- » Cross with crossing guards at school crosswalks.
- » Walk bikes, scooters and skateboards through the crosswalk for safety.
- » When riding bikes in the roadway, follow the same rules as a car driver.
- » Protect your brain! Always wear a bike helmet.

To learn more about getting to school safely, or to find out how to become a school crossing guard, please visit austintexas.gov/saferoutes.

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite coutilities.com/go/utilitynews.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

East Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Rd.

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

South Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 1901 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 100

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