



DPU Scoop



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Home Component Safety Series: Cooking Appliances

For this month's safety consideration series, we're exploring cooking appliances. Humans have been cooking with fire for nearly a million and a half years, and while many of us still use it today, every type of cooking appliance comes with safety risks we should be aware of.

Home wiring Verify that your home's wiring is robust enough – and grounded – to support any electrical cooking appliances. Microwaves pull a lot of juice, but so does running a toaster and a countertop convection oven. If you are switching from a fossil fuel appliance to an all-electric version, ensure your existing wiring will support the increased electrical need or hire a professional to upgrade your electrical system.

Gas connections Periodically check your gas connection points for areas of corrosion. Make sure your gas shutoff valve is easy to reach. Clean the area around the burners to allow for clean and adequate gas flow.

Heat and burns Use caution when cooking with open flames. Keep people, pets, loose fabrics and papers out of the cooking area. Electric glass cooktops and coils stay hot for a while after use, too. Using stoves, ovens, and ranges in the summer can heat up kitchens to uncomfortable, or even unsafe, temperatures. Use ventilation and cooling devices when appropriate to avoid overheating.

Gas leaks If you smell any gas, and your gas cooking appliance is off, evacuate your home and call the fire department to check for a gas leak. Make sure to have functioning carbon monoxide detectors installed in your home, especially in sleeping areas. Most CO detectors alert at around 70 ppm. The price goes up for more sensitive detectors with alarms at 20-30 ppm, but it might be worth considering as it could mean a much earlier alert and the difference between life and death.

It's important to maintain your cooking appliance and that means keeping it clean. A clean appliance, whether it has burners, elements or coils, is a more efficient appliance. Less gunk allows more heat to be transferred to your food faster, regardless of whether you cook with gas or electricity.



It might be time to say goodbye

You've had enough: knobs are falling off, the clock doesn't work, there is tape from a previous homeowner and you're afraid to check if it's decorative or structural, and the oven doesn't bake evenly anymore. It's time for a new cooking appliance.

Start with the basics

- Is this a quick replacement, range for range?
- Do you want to upgrade to wall ovens and an in-counter cooktop?
- Do you want to stick with the current fuel source?

Think about lifestyle considerations

- Are you able to cook and bake what you want?
- Does the amount of residual heat at the stove surface or in your kitchen concern you?
- Are there little hands or paws in your home that could get in the way?
- Do occasionally forgetful people use your kitchen?
- Do you have any concerns about the quality of air in your kitchen and home?

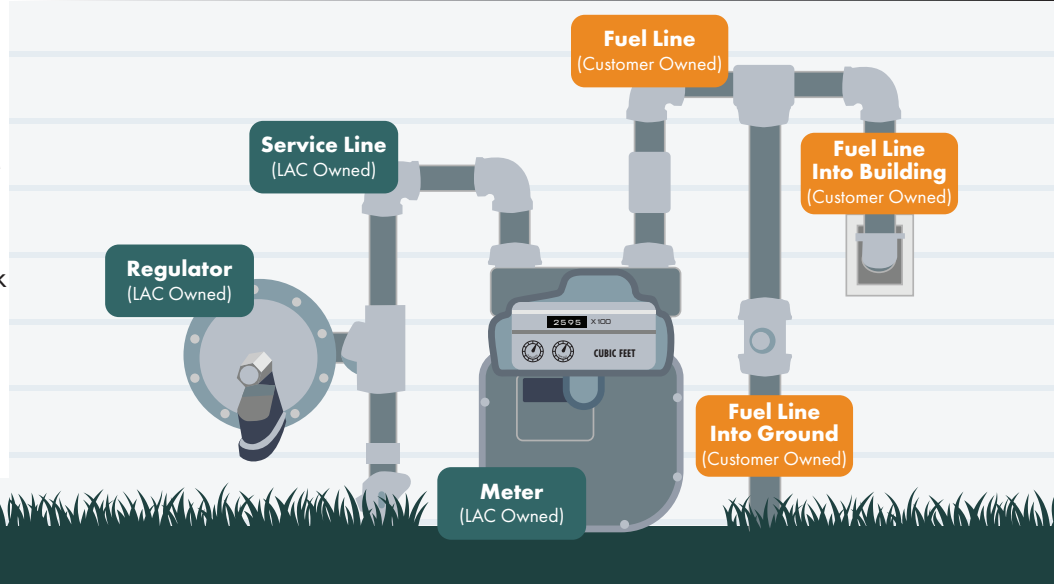
Always consider the safety of the household along with your intended use of appliances as you make upgrades.



Curious about induction cooking technology, but haven't experienced it yet? Borrow one of our loaner induction cooktops from the local public libraries or the DPU office to try it out!
Learn more at ladpu.com/induction.

Who owns what? NATURAL GAS

As a utility customer, you are responsible for some of the utility components around your home. When it comes to natural gas, you are responsible for the fuel lines between your home and the gas meter. The Department of Public Utilities is responsible for the meter itself, the service line to the meter, and the regulator. Not all meters look the same though! If your installation looks different and you aren't sure which pieces are your responsibility, feel free to get in touch with us. 505.662.8333 or CustomerCare@losalamosnm.gov.



We are searching for our next Board of Public Utilities member!

Could it be you?

There is currently one vacancy for the term July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH 11:59 PM ON APRIL 27, 2026

Duties, details, application requirements & vacancy brochure can be found online at ladpu.com/BPU.

If you meet the requirements, desire to serve the community, have knowledge and experience that could benefit the BPU, and are registered to vote, then you are encouraged to apply!



Sign up NOW for local EMERGENCY ALERTS

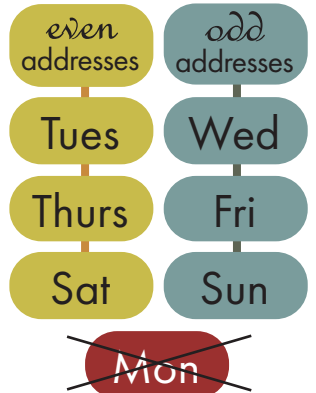
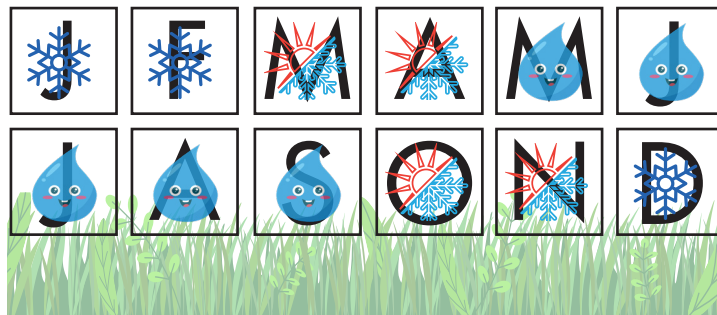
All who live, work, go to school, or recreate in Los Alamos County on a regular basis should sign up. Registering allows you to choose how you receive alerts (text, call, email), provide multiple contact methods, customize location-based alerts, and ensure your information is accurate.

SIGNING UP IS QUICK & EASY
Text "LOSALAMOS" to 888777
Individuals may opt out at any time



When should I water outdoors?

right month, right place, right time



DPU's Water Conservation Rule W-8 (Water Wait) is in effect from May 1 - September 30. Complete info can be found online in DPU's Rules and Regulations at ladpu.com/Rules-Regs.

FIND DPU ONLINE!

Connect through our Linktree at <https://ladpu.com/Links>

