

HOMEOWNER NEWSLETTER

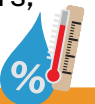
SPRING 2023 | VOLUME 02



SPRING MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

- Identify and test water and gas shut off valves routinely
- Check for signs of water and pest damage in attic and basement
- Clean out your dishwasher interior/filter
- Vacuum dust from refrigerator coils, heating filters, dryer vents, etc.
- Survey deck for loose boards and rot
- Check that gutters are securely attached to roof.
- Clear gutters and downspouts to keep spring rains flowing away from the home.
- Prepare AC units for use--check filters, service heat pump, etc.

Visit the '[Homeowner Resources](#)' tab on our website for the full seasonal maintenance checklist



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY: APRIL 22



TIPS FOR YOUR HOME AND YARD:

- **Plant native flowers around your yard** to attract pollinators, encourage biodiversity, and reduce the need for soil amendments/synthetic fertilizers
- **Complete an Energy Audit** on your home to locate sources of air leakage and learn ways to improve insulation, reduce energy usage--and prepare for future HVAC, electrical, and appliance updates through the Inflation Reduction Act.
- **Upgrade to LED light bulbs**--they use 90% LESS electricity and last up to 25x longer than incandescent bulbs (*And don't forget to turn out the lights when not in use!*)
- **Conserve water** with low-flow toilets and shower heads. Take shorter showers, reuse cooking water to feed plants, and only run the dishwasher/clothes washer with full loads.

Damp Basement? Invest in a dehumidifier this spring to keep your space and belongings free of mildew and mold. [West Penn Power](#) offers a \$25 rebate on ENERGY-STAR models, submitted within 90 days of purchase.

WHERE TO PURCHASE PA NATIVE PLANTS:

- [Tait Farm Greenhouse](#)
- [Fri. 4/28: PSU Student Farm Plant Sale](#)
- [Sat. 5/6: Central PA Native Plant Society Plant Sale at Millbrook Marsh](#)
- [Sat. 5/20: Centre County Master Gardener Plant Sale at Ag Progress Days site](#)

Check out a list of PA Native Plants here: tinyurl.com/psuextensionnativeplants

There is SO much exciting info coming out about the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** and the benefits to homeowners--but it can be hard to sift through all the information!

Rewiring America is a fantastic reference: Try out their [IRA Savings Calculator](#) to check your potential tax credit and rebate savings! They are also keeping up to date on rebate info as it becomes available. Check them out at www.rewiringamerica.org

Enter your household information to find out.

Zip Code

Homeowners Status

Household Income

Tax Filing

Household Size

Calculate!

REWIRING
AMERICA

INFLATION
REDUCTION
ACT

SPOTLIGHT: HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS

HOW DO THEY WORK?

Instead of using electricity or gas to directly heat the water, a HPWH finds heat in the surrounding air to heat refrigerant-filled coils, which in turn heat the water. Then the cooled refrigerant cycles back through to be re-heated. They work best in open spaces that are at least semi-heated year round. Many can also operate in hybrid electric mode to supplement cooler spaces, though energy usage will be higher.

ENERGY SAVINGS

A HPWH uses around 1/3 the electricity of a standard water heater. According to energystar.gov, a HPWH can save a family of 4 around \$470/year.

TAX CREDIT & REBATE INFO

- **West Penn Power:** \$500 rebate for ENERGY STAR-certified HPWH. Submit rebate form up to 90 days post-purchase. Visit rebates.energysavepa.com for info.
- **Inflation Reduction Act:** 30% tax credit (capped at \$2000/year). Point-of-sale rebates will be coming out later in 2023-24 and could cover up to 100% of cost, depending on household income.

WEST PENN POWER ENERGY AUDITS & WARM PROGRAM

What's the FIRST STEP you should take before making energy-related updates to your home? **Schedule a Home Energy Audit!** All WPP customers are eligible to receive an audit at no cost. Visit homeaudit.energysavepa.com to schedule.

Additionally, through the West Penn Power WARM Program, income-qualified WPP customers may be eligible for energy and money-saving improvements on your home, including insulation, possible replacement of AC units and refrigerators, water heater inspection, and more. Homeowners will receive an in-home energy evaluation and tips from a trained energy educator. Visit tinyurl.com/wppwarm to view income guidelines and learn how to apply.

PENNVEST SEWER REPAIR PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Agency (PHFA) has teamed up with PENNVEST and the PA DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) to offer low-interest, 20-year home improvement loans of up to \$25,000 on sewer repair or replacement. For more details and how to apply, visit www.phfa.org/programs/repairs.aspx

Not sure if/when your sewer line will need replaced? Contact a plumber and request a scope of the sewer line--for a couple hundred dollars, you can discover issues before they become major problems.