ENERGY SOLUTIONS@



While many factors influence the natural gas market, it is important to remember that your Nicor Gas bill is a reflection of your monthly gas usage. Knowing your facility's gas use history can give you an idea of how much gas you typically use and what the cost will be based on current prices. You can find this information at the "My Account" section of **nicorgas.com/commercial**.

March 2004

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What's in your gas bill?

There are three primary components that make up your monthly Nicor Gas bill.

Natural Gas Cost

The cost of the natural gas you use makes up about 75 to 80 percent of your monthly bill. It is calculated by taking the number of therms (the measure of how much gas you used during the month) multiplied by the price per therm. As a regulated utility, Nicor Gas does not profit from gas costs; we pass the cost on to you without mark-up. If you participate in Customer Select, the name of your gas supplier appears in this section, along with their charges. 5-10% Taxes

\$1,221.35

\$1,221.35

10-15% Delivery Charges

75-80% Natural Gas Cost



Delivery Charges

Delivery charges are Nicor Gas' cost to operate and distribute gas to you. These charges make up about 10 to 15 percent of your gas bill, and the amount we charge is based on rates that were approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission in 1996. Nicor Gas customers pay the lowest distribution charges of any Illinois utility.

Taxes

State, utility fund, municipal and gas use taxes make up the remaining five to 10 percent of your natural gas bill. A description of these taxes can be found on the back of your gas bill.

SAVE A STAMP... pay your bill online

Now all it takes is a click of the mouse to pay your gas bill! With Internet bill payment, you can make your gas bill payment online using a credit card or bank withdrawal (a transaction fee will apply). To get started, visit **nicorgas.com/commercial** and log on to the "My Account" section.

BE SURE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION READY:

- Your Nicor Gas account number;
- An e-mail address (for payment confirmation); and,
- Your credit card or bank account information.

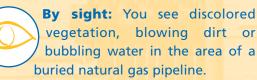
How to recognize a natural gas leak

While Nicor Gas employees regularly monitor our gas line system, we also rely on our customers to alert us to potential problems. And, for your safety, it is important that you are able to recognize the signs of a potential natural gas leak.

> **By smell:** You smell natural gas – many people equate natural gas odor to that of rotten eggs.

By sound: You hear a blowing or hissing sound coming from the natural gas facilities on your property.





If you suspect a natural gas leak inside, immediately open doors and windows as you leave. Do not use your telephone, operate any appliance, light a match or turn light switches on or off.

CALL 1 888 NICOR4U FROM A NEIGHBORING FACILITY.

Is it time to consider upgrading your boiler system?

Natural gas boilers are perfect for central heating, water heating and process applications. Not only does a properly tuned boiler offer lower operating costs, but natural gas-fueled equipment is also safer for the environment compared to their oil and propane counterparts.

To learn how a natural gas boiler could improve your facility's operations, call Nicor Gas today to schedule a comprehensive evaluation of your current system. We will design and install an energy efficient system that is customized to your business. Just call 630 983-8676 ext. 2596 or e-mail energysolutions@nicor.com.

YOU CAN ENSURE YOUR FACILITY'S BOILER SYSTEM IS OPERATING EFFICIENTLY BY:

- Scheduling an annual cleaning and inspection
- Retrofitting your boiler so that it can perform more effectively
- Replacing your existing boiler system with a new, more energyefficient natural gas boiler system

Solutions to Share

Do you find the information in *Energy Solutions* @ *Work* useful? We encourage you to share this newsletter with others! To add a colleague to our mailing list or to receive this newsletter electronically, e-mail us at **energysolutions@nicor.com**.



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