



Gazette

JANUARY 2020

waltongas.com

MAKE AN EASY *to do list* FOR 2020

This year, ditch your New Year's resolutions in favor of a few simple tasks to accomplish each month. Having a short ledger of easy projects mapped out on your calendar – with a place to put a check mark next to each when completed – is far more satisfying. Walton Gas offers these ideas for saving energy, cutting costs and staying safe in 2020.

LOOKING FOR MORE TIMELY TIPS?

Check out the Walton Gas blog www.waltongas.com/blog. It's updated twice each month with seasonal ideas and natural gas consumer information.

JANUARY Celebrate Cut Your Energy Costs Day (Jan. 10) by installing a programmable thermostat.



FEBRUARY Install a natural gas standby generator to ensure on-demand, dependable energy for your Valentine.

MARCH “Spring forward” (March 8) by checking and replacing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms.



APRIL Getting the urge to plant something? Don't forget to call 811 before you dig.

MAY Before the summer BBQ season heats up, inspect and clean your natural gas grill for safety and efficiency.



JUNE During National Safety Month, teach kids about natural gas safety by watching this animated video at http://bit.ly/gas_kid_safety.

JULY Going on vacation? Protect your home with a professionally monitored security system from EMC Security.



AUGUST Get in the back-to-school spirit by learning how to prepare for an extended power outage. Watch this new Walton EMC video at http://bit.ly/storm_prep_outages

SEPTEMBER Make an appointment to have your natural gas furnace serviced by a qualified technician.



OCTOBER Change the furnace filter before turning the heat on, and check it once a month throughout the winter.

NOVEMBER When you set your clocks back on Nov. 1, make sure vents for your gas appliances (fireplace, dryer, stove and furnace) are free and clear of tree leaves and other debris.



DECEMBER Decking the halls for the holidays? Keep holiday décor and other combustible items at least 3 feet from your natural gas fireplace.

gas up the stove

Start the year with a healthy vegetarian meal!

Main Dish Tofu

1 14-ounce block Tofu, extra firm	1/2 jar peach or apricot preserves, to taste
2 tablespoons butter	1 tablespoon flour
2 tablespoons vegetable oil	1 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 cup red wine vinegar	1 tablespoon onion juice
2 tablespoons sugar	Salt, to taste
2 tablespoons teriyaki sauce	Optional: white or brown rice



Drain liquid from tofu and pat dry; slice into 1/4-inch slices. Lightly brown tofu in butter and vegetable oil. In mixing bowl, combine red wine vinegar, sugar, teriyaki sauce, peach or apricot preserves and flour, mix well. Add garlic powder, onion juice and salt. Pour mixture over tofu and simmer for 20 minutes. Serve with white or brown rice.

Submitted by Marian Riordan. Featured recipes are not independently tested, so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from the recognized experts.

Send us your recipes!

The best entry each month will appear in the Gazette and receive a **FREE** cookbook.

Send recipe, name, address to:

Walton Gas; Attn: Recipe
P.O. Box 260
Monroe, GA 30655
or gazette@waltonemc.com

Figuring Out Filters

When was the last time you replaced your air filter? Ignoring this simple, routine maintenance task can prevent your furnace from performing its best – and prevent a possible malfunction that could leave your Georgia home cold on a winter night.

To help you select the right filter for your furnace, here are the responses to some questions Walton Gas representatives are commonly asked.

WHAT IS MERV?

Minimum efficiency reporting value (MERV) is the standard by which the effectiveness of all U.S.-made air filters are measured. MERV ratings range from 1 to 16. The higher the rating the more particles the filter can remove.

WHICH MERV-RATED FILTER IS BEST FOR MY NATURAL GAS FURNACE?

Most manufacturers recommend filters with a MERV rating of 7–12 for residential furnaces, however you should check the manufacturer's recommended range for your unit. Then, it's up to you how much filtration you desire. A basic MERV 4 filter will likely be the cheapest but won't catch certain small particles (like dust mites and pet dander). If your family has

health or allergy issues, you may want a high-efficiency filter that's MERV 11 or higher. For most households, a MERV 7 or 8 filter might be the middle ground between performance and cost.

WHY SHOULDN'T I GET A FILTER WITH THE HIGHEST MERV RATING?

The higher the MERV rating, the smaller the pores are for air to flow through the HVAC filter. This can create more resistance in airflow than your system was designed to manage, which can result in inefficiency or damage.

DO ALL FILTERS HAVE A MERV RATING?

Every filter has a MERV rating, but not every manufacturer promotes it on their packaging. Don't confuse MERV with some manufacturers' proprietary rating systems. If you don't see a MERV rating, use your smartphone to do some quick research. For instance, on walmart.com you can find a filter's MERV rating in the "About This Product" section. **TIP:** Sometimes the MERV rating is "hidden" in small print somewhere on the filter, so look closely.



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