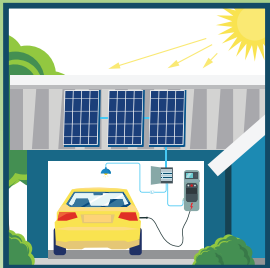
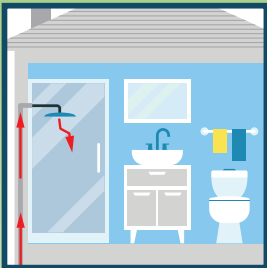
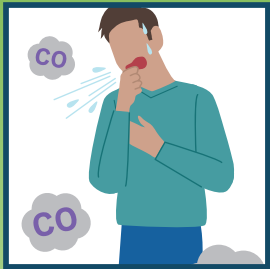


ECO HEALTHY HOME GUIDE

Resources for a Healthier, Greener Home



Most people spend over 90% of their time indoors!

Discover a variety of ways to make your home a healthier place to live.

SECTION 1 | Green and Healthy Homes



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SECTION 3 | Home Improvement Resources



Environmental Home Improvements
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Code Violations & Emergency Repairs
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Use the City of Milwaukee's Home Improvement Resource Navigator:
milwaukee.gov/housinghelpmke



This material is available in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities upon request. Please contact 414-286-3475, ADACoordinator@milwaukee.gov or TTY: 711.

DOA 7/7/26

12 Elements of a Green and Healthy Home

Before diving into the details of this guide, let's start with the big picture.

Use this 12-step, whole-house strategy to reduce your energy use, save money and create a healthier, safer home environment.

greenandhealthyhomes.org and nchh.org



- 1. Dry:** Prevent water exposure that produces moisture and mold
- 2. Clean:** Common routines to reduce contaminants
- 3. Safe:** Take precautions to prevent emergencies
- 4. Well Ventilated:** Supply fresh air to reduce contaminants
- 5. Pest-Free:** Keep unwanted critters out of your home
- 6. Contaminant-Free:** Understand hazards and reduce them

- 7. Well Maintained:** Inspect, clean, and repair regularly
- 8. Energy Efficient:** Install energy-saving projects and appliances
- 9. Thermally Controlled:** Weatherize and insulate from extreme heat and cold
- 10. Accessible:** Design or modify for all ages and abilities
- 11. Affordable:** Responsible property owners support housing stability
- 12. Ready:** Make your home safe before, during and after extreme weather



Asthma Triggers and Allergens

Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening, lifelong respiratory disease that affects quality of life for roughly 25 million Americans, including an estimated 5 million children. Asthma is a condition in which your airways narrow and swell, making breathing more difficult. The best way to manage asthma is by avoiding triggers, preventing symptoms with medication, and having an asthma management plan. Learn more at dhs.wisconsin.gov/asthma.

TRIGGERS & IRRITANTS



POLLUTION
factories, vehicles emissions, indoor gas stove or fireplace



SMOKING
tobacco, marijuana, vapes



CHEMICALS
cleaning supplies, paint, perfumes, scented soaps



PETS / RODENTS
fur, dander, roaches



RESPIRATORY ILLNESS
cold and flu



DUST & MOLD
dust mites, pollens



Find Support:
Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies:
famallies.org or 414-988-3269

Wisconsin Asthma Coalition:
chawisconsin.org/asthma

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Healthcare

- Create an asthma management plan with your healthcare provider or an asthma educator.
- Quit smoking or smoke outside; never in the home or car, especially where children are present.

Regular Cleaning & Personal Habits

- Dust surfaces with a damp cloth. Vacuum and wash bedding and toys weekly.
- Change furnace filter every 3 months. Use portable air cleaner with HEPA filter.

- Choose non-chemical, unscented cleaning products.
- Use exhaust fans or open windows when showering or cooking.
- Go electric with purchases like stoves and cars to improve air quality.

• **Wisconsin Department of Health Services Asthma-Safe Homes Program** provides free, in-home asthma education and home repair services: dhs.wisconsin.gov/asthma/ashp.htm or 608-266-1112



Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill without warning. It can build up in homes from fuel burning appliances and tools like: cars, trucks, small engines, portable generators, space heaters, furnaces, gas and wood-burning stoves, water heaters and appliances. Poorly vented, unvented or malfunctioning appliances, and leaking chimneys and furnaces increase carbon monoxide risk. Learn more at dhs.wisconsin.gov/air/co/htm.

HEALTH EFFECTS

CO symptoms are often flu-like:

- Dizziness and confusion
- Loss of consciousness
- Headaches
- Chest pain
- Nausea and vomiting
- Upset stomach



In Wisconsin, around 500 people go to the emergency room each year because of carbon monoxide. That's why law requires

that each floor of a house has a carbon monoxide detector. Contact the Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services for questions about the law: 414-286-3441

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Detectors

- Install detectors in all sleeping areas.
- Check or replace detector batteries when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.

Furnaces/Other Household Appliances

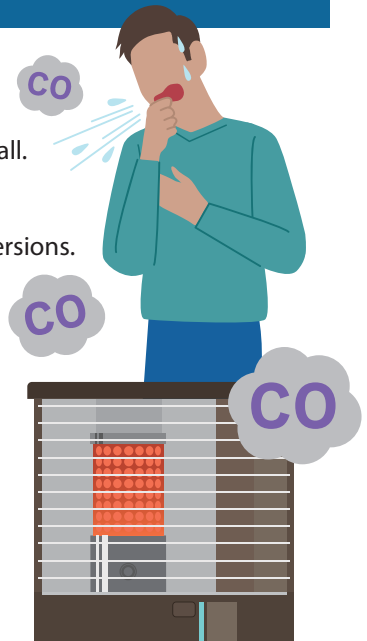
- Consider replacing gas appliances with electric versions.
- Never use a gas stovetop or oven for heating.
- Vent your gas appliances and fireplace.
- Service your heating system, water heater and any other gas burning appliances yearly.
- Buy gas equipment that has the seal of a national testing agency.

Vehicles

- Never idle your vehicle in an attached garage, even if the garage door is open.
- Have a mechanic check your exhaust yearly.

Chimneys, Charcoal, and Portable Appliances

- Have your chimney checked and cleaned yearly.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage, even if ventilated.
- Never use portable gas or charcoal camp stoves indoors.





Chemical Safety

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are a group of chemicals that easily evaporate into the air. They can worsen air and water quality and lead to health issues. People with respiratory problems like asthma, young children, elders, and others who are sensitive to chemicals are at a greater risk of being affected by VOCs. Learn more at dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/vocs.htm.

Common Forms:

Building Materials

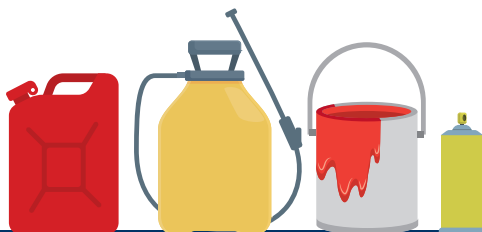
- Paint, varnishes, caulks and adhesives
- Carpet, upholstery, foam and vinyl flooring
- Composite wood products

Activities

- Smoking
- Glues, paints and permanent markers
- Gas wood burning stoves

Home and Personal Care Products

- Cleaners, disinfectants and air fresheners
- Pesticides
- Cosmetics and deodorants
- Fuel oil and gasoline



HEALTH EFFECTS

The health effects of VOCs depend on the type, how and how much a person was exposed. Some effects include:

- Worsening of asthma symptoms
- Eyes, nose and throat irritation
- Headaches, fatigue, or dizziness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Increased risk of cancer
- Damage to the liver, kidneys and central nervous system

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Keep VOCs out of reach of children and pets and properly dispose of unused chemicals at designated collection sites.

Ventilation

- Open doors and windows for fresh air and use fans to circulate it.
- Use a portable air cleaner with an activated charcoal filter.
- If you must use products with VOCs, make sure the space is well ventilated or you are outdoors.
- When buying new, or having work done on an existing home, request low-VOC construction materials.

Purchasing

- Replace harmful cleaning products with safe alternatives like baking soda, borax, vinegar, lemon juice, or castile soap.

Find designated hazardous waste sites at:

- City of Milwaukee: milwaukee.gov/HazardousWaste
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District: mmsd.com/what-you-can-do/home-haz-mat-collection



Fires can strike anywhere—in structures, buildings, automobiles and outdoors; but fires that affect our homes are often the most tragic and the most preventable. Every 23 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire in the U.S. The leading causes of home fires are from cooking, accidents, heating or electrical malfunction. Residents could have less than 2 minutes to escape a home fire once the smoke alarm sounds, so every second counts. It is important to know the basic facts about fire and have a home fire escape plan. Learn more at usfa.fema.gov.

HEALTH EFFECTS

- Impaired judgment and coordination
- Headache, dizziness, nausea, and fatigue
- Unconsciousness
- Respiratory arrest, cardiac arrest, and death

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Be Prepared

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Test smoke alarms once a month.
- Change smoke alarm batteries at least once a year.
- Create and practice a home fire escape plan.
- Have a fire extinguisher in your home.

- Contact the **Smoke Alarm Hotline** for a free smoke alarm installation: 414-286-8980

Prevent Fires

- Learn how to properly use, charge and store your lithium battery-powered devices and electronics
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the furnace, water heater and other heat-generating equipment.
- Avoid overloading power strips/outlets.
- Don't mix chemicals to avoid toxic gases or a fire.
- Avoid burning trash, plastic, treated wood and yard waste outside, as it releases toxic chemicals.

- Find guidelines on outside burning from the **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/OpenBurning

- Turn off the breaker/fuse box after a home flood only if it is safe to do so.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

- Contact the **Milwaukee Fire Department** to schedule community programming: milwaukee.gov/MFD

FACTS ABOUT FIRE

Fire is FAST.

It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill your home.

Fire is HOT.

Heat is more dangerous than flames. Room temperatures can be 100° at the floor and rise to over 600° at eye level.

Fire is DARK.

It creates thick, black smoke that can make it hard to see even brightly lit objects.

Fire is DEADLY.

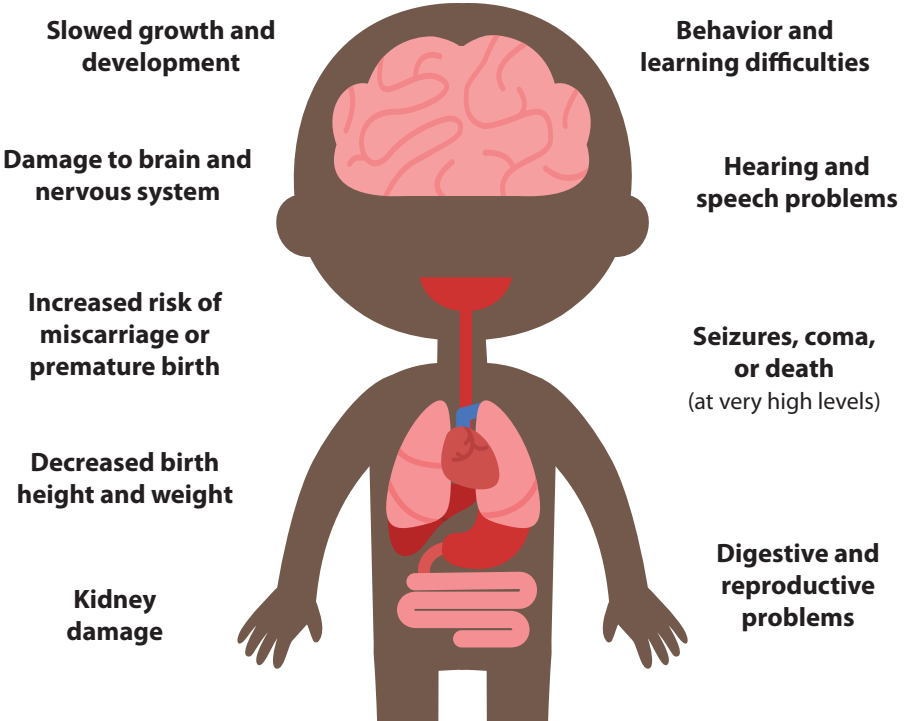
Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames.



Lead

There is no safe level of lead exposure. Lead is toxic and can cause many health problems. It can enter the body through eating, drinking, touching or breathing lead-contaminated items. Lead can be found in paint, certain products, soil and water. Pregnant people and children between the ages of 0-6 years old are the most at risk for lead poisoning. Learn more at milwaukee.gov/HEH.

HEALTH EFFECTS



Get Your Child Tested

Children ages 6 and younger are at greater risk of lead poisoning because their bodies absorb more of it and their developing brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to its damaging effects. Children frequently place their hands, toys, and other objects in their mouths and are exposed.

Children with elevated blood lead levels don't always look or act sick. The only way to know if your child has been exposed is with a blood test from their doctor or a free lead screening clinic. Visit milwaukee.gov/HEH or call 414-286-6800 for clinic options.



ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Lead Paint

- Wet wipe surfaces where paint is chipping on windows, doors and baseboards.
- Use a HEPA vacuum filter. Free rentals available through the Milwaukee Health Department.
- DO NOT sweep, scrape, or sand chipping/peeling paint.
- For a temporary fix, cover peeling paint/plaster with duct tape or contact paper.
- Hire a certified renovator or lead abatement contractor to safely remove and replace lead-painted surfaces.



- The **Childhood Lead Primary Prevention Program** offers eligible property owners grants to make lead safe home repairs by replacing original windows with lead-based paint: milwaukee.gov/CLPPP or 414-286-2165
- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services Lead-Safe Homes Program** offers property owners/tenants in select areas of the city free-to-no-cost lead abatement services if they have children or pregnant people living in or regularly visiting the home: dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/lshp.htm or 608-267-9191

Products

- Wash your child's hands and toys often.
- Feed children a diet rich in Calcium, Iron, and Vitamin C.
- Avoid using items imported from outside the U.S. unless they have been tested for/do not have lead.

Soil

- Cover bare soil in your yard with a barrier like grass, mulch or gravel.
- Wash produce with cold water for one minute, or until dirt is gone.
- Test your soil for \$30/bagged sample: 414-286-3526
- Wipe down your shoes and pet's paws before entering your home.





Lead

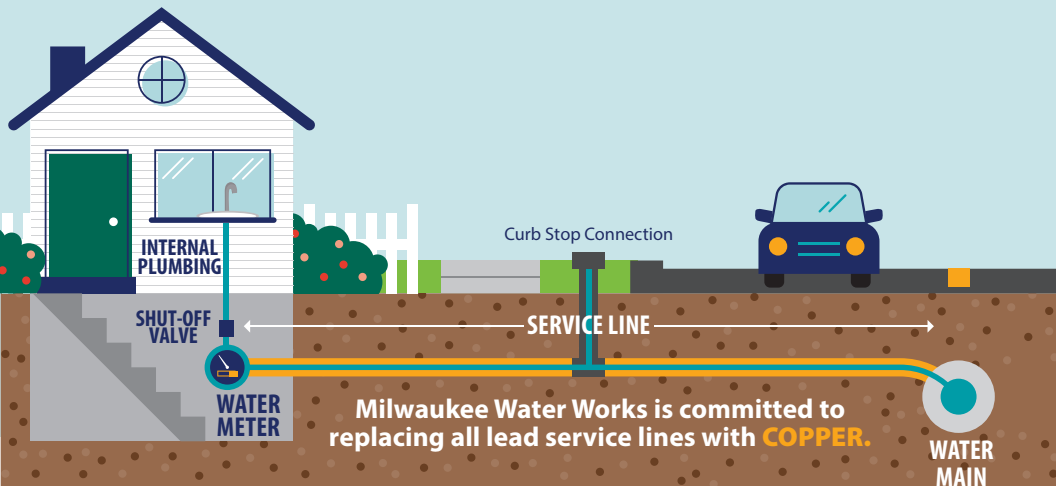
Water

- Use an NSF/ANSI-certified water filter.
- Run your tap water for 3 minutes before using it.
- Drink and cook with cold tap water heated on the stove or microwave.
- Remove and rinse out faucet aerators once a month.



Lead Service Line Replacement Programs

- **Milwaukee Water Works** is working to reduce lead in drinking water by replacing 65,000 lead service lines throughout the city starting with neighborhoods that have the greatest need as part of the Prioritization Program. Learn more at milwaukee.gov/water/LeadPipes/MPP
- Through the **Owner Request Option Program** Milwaukee Water Works will replace a limited number of lead services lines that are not part of a planned project or required due to a leak. To participate in this voluntary program, property owners must agree to pay for the full cost of replacing the private portion of the service line: 414-286-6304 or milwaukee.gov/LeadPipes





Mold is a type of fungi that is commonly found throughout our environment. However, mold can be a problem when it grows unchecked indoors. If there is sufficient moisture, along with a food source such as wallpaper, drywall, wood, carpet, or any organic substance, mold may spread rapidly and cause damage to your home. It may also affect your indoor air quality and health. If you see or smell mold, remove it and fix the moisture problem.

HEALTH EFFECTS

- Stuffy nose
- Sore throat
- Red or itchy eyes
- Skin irritations or outbreaks
- Coughing or wheezing
- Severe reactions can occur in people with asthma, mold allergies, chronic lung disease or who are immunocompromised

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Moisture & Condensation Control

- Reduce indoor humidity to 30-50%.
- Dry and reduce moisture quickly when any condensation or moisture collects on windows, walls or pipes.
- Insulate cold surfaces like water pipes.
- Increase ventilation and airflow by opening doors and windows, when practical. Use fans as needed.
- Fix or report plumbing leaks and moisture problems quickly.
- Clean and repair roof gutters often.
- Install rain gardens and barrels to help soak up excess water around the foundation.

Reduce Humidity

- Use air conditioners and de-humidifiers as needed.
- Vent moisture-producing appliances to the outside.
- Run a bathroom fan or open the window when showering. Use exhaust fans or open windows when cooking, running the dishwasher or dish washing, etc.

Cleaning

- Small areas of mold on non-porous surfaces can be cleaned with a damp cloth and cleaning agent or soap and water.
- If sewage release occurred, a bleach solution may be necessary to disinfect. Never mix bleach with other household cleaners. Follow all safety guidelines.
- Consider a mold clean up service or remediation contractor for areas of 10 square feet or more: dhs.wisconsin.gov/mold.hiringguide.htm

Contact the **Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services** if your landlord is unresponsive: 414- 286-2268

Milwaukee Health Department: milwaukee.gov/mold or 414-286-6800



Pests and Pesticides

Many homes have common pests, such as cockroaches, fleas, ants, dust mites, rats, and mice. Pesticides are used to control insects, fungus and weeds on our lawns, gardens, crops, and in other parts of our environment. All pesticides are toxic to some degree and can enter your body from eating, drinking, breathing, and skin contact. Pets and babies are at higher risk of contact with these harmful chemicals.



TYPES OF PESTICIDES:

- **Algaecides:** algae growth
- **Antimicrobials or Disinfectants:** bacteria and viruses
- **Fungicides:** molds, mildew and rust
- **Herbicides:** unwanted plants and weeds
- **Insecticides and Insect Growth Regulators:** insects
- **Rodenticides:** mice, rats and gophers
- **Wood Preservatives:** insects, fungus and other pests

HEALTH EFFECTS

- Mild distress like nausea or dizziness
- Lung damage/asthmatic symptoms
- Damage to the nervous, reproductive, endocrine, or immune systems
- In pregnant people, exposure can cause miscarriages, birth defects and developmental disabilities

Environmental Health Effects:

- Increased ozone and air pollutants
- Increased threat to pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.)
- Pollution of drinking water sources and water bodies
- Pesticides pollute every stream and over 90% of wells

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Pest Prevention

- Store food and pet food in tightly sealed glass or plastic containers.
- Place tight-fitting lids on trash cans and regularly remove garbage.
- Fix leaky plumbing. Don't let water collect anywhere in your home.
- Keep pests out by installing door sweeps, weather strips, and sealant in cracks.
- Check packages or boxes before bringing them into your home.

Pest Management

- Use Integrated Pest Management.
- Choose low-toxicity products.
- Keep children and pets away from where pesticides are applied/stored.
- Properly dispose of unused and empty pesticide containers at MMSD's Home Haz Mat Collection Sites.

• **Pest Control/Pesticide Safety:**
[epa.gov/safepestcontrol](https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol)

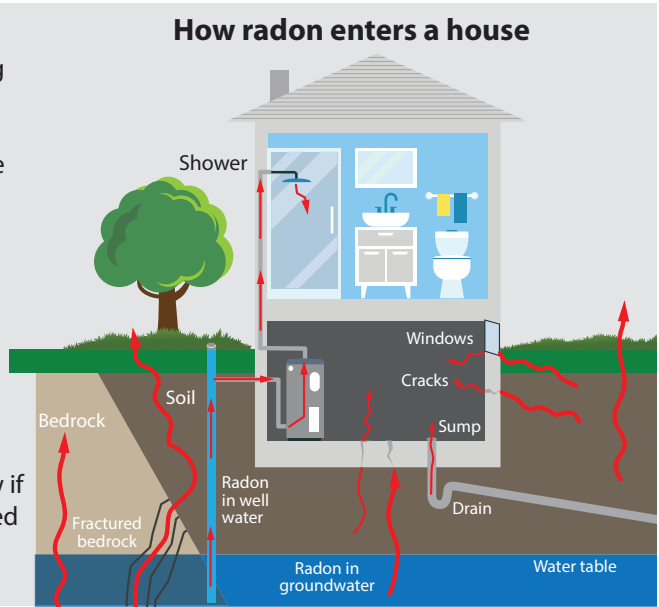


Radon is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that forms when naturally occurring radioactive metals break down in rocks, soil, or groundwater. It can enter your home through cracks and holes in the basement, foundation, and gaps around service pipes. When radon becomes trapped, it builds up to dangerously high levels. About 1 out of 10 homes in Wisconsin, both old and new, have high radon levels. Learn more at dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon.

Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year, making it the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after smoking.

Radon can pollute ground water and create poor indoor air quality.

Testing for radon is the only way to know if you are being exposed to dangerous levels.



ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Test Your Home

- Eligible zip codes can receive free radon tests from **MKE FreshAir Collective: mkefreshair.com**
- Buy a radon test kit for around \$10-20 from a hardware store or the **South East Wisconsin Radon Information Center**

Radon Mitigation

- If indoor radon levels are 4pCi/L or higher, spend as little time in the basement as possible. Avoid exercising or letting children play in the basement. Use it only when necessary.
- The best way to permanently remove radon is having a certified radon contractor install a mitigation system for between \$1,000-2,000. To find a contractor in your area visit dhs.wisconsin.gov/radon/proficiency.htm

- **South East Wisconsin Radon Information Center: 262-896-8300 or waukeshacounty.gov/parks-and-land-us/environmental-health/radon**



Smoking and Vaping

Recreational smoking and vaping are harmful to both people and air quality. When burned, cigarettes create more than 7,000 chemicals, many of which are toxic and at least 69 are known to cause cancer. Secondhand smoke comes from tobacco products used by other people, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and vaping devices, and can stay in the air for several hours.

Protect Your Health

Exposure to smoke from tobacco, marijuana, and vaping, even for a short time, can be harmful to both children and adults.

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the U.S. Each year, more than 490,000 people die from tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.



HEALTH EFFECTS

- Heart disease and stroke
- Lung cancer, bronchitis, and pneumonia
- Increased asthma attacks
- Reduced lung function
- Death in both children and adults

Benefits to Quitting:

- Quitting smoking has immediate and long-term health benefits at any age, no matter how much or how long you have smoked.
- Immediate benefits include reduced risk of heart attack and improved lung function after a few weeks or months of quitting.
- Long-term benefits include reduced risk of stroke, cancers and premature death.

Environmental Health Effects:

- Cigarette and e-cigarette waste can pollute the water, air, and land with toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and single-use plastics.
- About 4.5 trillion cigarette filters are found in the environment each year and each one takes up to 10 years to break down.
- 600 million trees are chopped down every year by the tobacco industry.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- To reduce secondhand exposure, do not smoke in homes and vehicles. Only smoke outdoors, especially when children are present.
- The **Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line** is a free service that has helped more than 200,000 people address smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco. Visit or chat online at quitline.wisc.edu, Call 800-784-8669 or Text READY to 21586
- The **American Lung Association** has tips and support: lung.org/quit-smoking



Climate change is, and will continue, affecting our environment and health.

When we burn fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas, we add more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This buildup acts like a heat-trapping blanket which disrupts the climate. These climate changes worsen air and water quality and increase the likelihood of flooding, extreme heat, and poor air quality. This contributes to, or worsens, health risks. In Milwaukee, we are already feeling the effects of a warmer and wetter climate. We can reduce the health and environmental impacts of our changing climate by taking action before, during and after they happen.

In 2023, the City of Milwaukee adopted the **Climate and Equity Plan** to provide the vision and foundation for climate action in Milwaukee with “10 Big Ideas” to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase equity, and make the city prosperous for the long term. Learn more at milwaukee.gov/ClimatePlan.

Most outdoor air pollution stems from human activities like smoking, transportation, industry and burning fossil fuels. It also comes from natural sources like wildfire smoke, dust and dirt. Human activities like burning fossil fuel create air pollution and also contribute to climate change, creating a cycle, that causes new or worsens existing health problems: dhs.wisconsin.gov/climate/air.htm

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Monitor air quality using weather apps or live maps like mkefreshair.com/projects/current-aqi
- On high pollution days minimize your time outside and wear an N95 mask

Extreme Heat



Extreme heat means summer temperatures that are much hotter and/or humid than average. Extreme heat is more deadly to Wisconsinites than all other weather disasters combined as it can lead to heat-related illness or death. The greatest health risks occur because of extended heat events or excessive nighttime temperatures. By 2050, Milwaukee’s extreme heat (90+ degrees Fahrenheit) days may triple as our changing climate becomes warmer and wetter: dhs.wisconsin.gov/climate/heat

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

- Stay hydrated and keep cool
- Use A/C, fans (if indoor temperature is less than 90 degrees), or a public cooling site milwaukee.gov/Health/Cooling-Sites
- Avoid being outside on the hottest parts of the day if possible

Skim the environmental home improvements section for more actions you can take to improve air quality and reduce extreme heat.



Floods are the most common and costly natural disasters in Wisconsin and our changing climate is increasing the frequency and intensity of rainfall and unpredictable flooding. Flooding damages our public infrastructure and homes and can cause sewage overflows, spread infectious diseases, and mold and mildew. Urban areas like Milwaukee have more impervious surfaces like pavement that prevent rain from naturally draining and leads to greater flooding. Increasing our flood resilience through infrastructure improvements and preparing our homes and families can reduce the impacts before and after flooding events.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Prepare

- Make an emergency plan, kit and contact list that's easy to access **ready.gov/floods**
- Sign up for Milwaukee Emergency Alerts through MKE Alerts: text #MKEALERT to 24639
- Move important things off the ground and to upper floors of your home if possible
- Declutter storm and home drains, and gutters Sign up to adopt your neighborhood storm drain and help reduce flooding risk in your neighborhood!
Adoptyourdrain.com

During

- Stay informed and listen to EAS, NOAA Weather Radio or local weather reports
- Gather your emergency supplies
- Turn off the power
- NEVER walk or drive through floodwater and get to higher ground if possible

After

- STAY OUT OF FLOODWATER — it may have sewage, chemicals, or other dangerous materials
- Wash and sanitize floors, countertops, dishes, utensils, and other hard surfaces touched by floodwater
- Wear protective gear like gloves, boots, goggles, and respirators for cleanup
- Wash your hands after cleaning up floodwater to avoid health risks
- Throw away food, drinks, or medicine touched by floodwater
- Individuals with breathing problems, asthma, or weakened immune systems should not be around mold **milwaukee.gov/Health/Milwaukee-Flooding-Safety-and-Response**

Learn the Terms

- A **Flood Watch** means a flood is possible in your area.
- A **Flood Warning** means a flood is about to happen or is happening in your area.

Need Immediate Help?

- **Call or Text 911:**
Text to 911 information
- **Call 211** for local resources
- **Call 988** if you need emotional support



Electricity, gas, water and waste play a big role in our home's comfort, safety, health and affordability. Reducing our fossil fuels and waste, and protecting and preserving our water, protects our homes, health and environment.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Reduce Energy Use

Energy is vitally important to heat, cool and light our homes. Most electricity and gas used in Milwaukee homes comes from fossil fuels which warm our planet and worsen our air quality. Reducing wasted energy in your home by making energy efficiency improvements, using renewable energy sources like solar, and your transit choices, are cost-saving solutions that also improve air quality while protecting our health and environment.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and local housing improvement programs provide financial assistance to weatherize, electrify buildings and vehicles, and convert to renewable energy. IRA Home Energy Rebates Programs make your home more energy-efficient and save money.

How to Participate:

1. Complete Income Qualification
2. Select your IRA Registered Contractor or Qualifying Equipment
3. Complete Your Project

Home Efficiency Rebates Program (HOMES)

offers rebates for whole-home energy improvements like ENERGY STAR heating, cooling and water heaters, insulation and air sealing. Single and multi-family residences and homeowners of all income levels may qualify. After a home energy assessment, rebates are based on your projected energy savings and household income.

Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (HEAR)

offers rebates for ENERGY STAR electric equipment like heat pumps, kitchen and laundry appliances, electric panel and wiring upgrades. Wisconsin residents earning 150% Area Median Income or less may receive up to \$14,000 rebates per household.

IRA Home Energy Rebates can be used with funds from Focus On Energy and other housing improvement programs to further reduce project costs.

Find Focus On Energy's rebate programs at focusonenergy.com



Environmental Home Improvements

Weatherization and Energy Efficiency

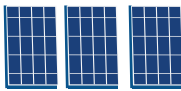
- The **Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program** offers a one-time, annual payment toward heating and electric bills. Access more energy and money-saving programs like weatherization, furnace and water heater repair, or crisis services at **Keepwarmmke.org**
- The **Milwaukee Energy Efficiency Program (Me2)** offers financing

up to \$20,000 through Summit Credit Union for energy saving improvements like insulation, heating/cooling equipment and windows: **milwaukee.gov/me2**

- Choose ENERGY STAR®-rated products and appliances whenever possible. **ENERGY STAR® Home Upgrade** provides steps you can take to reduce your home energy use: **energystar.gov**

Energy Efficiency Tips

- Turn off lights, appliances and electronics when not in use.
- Use energy-efficient LED lightbulbs.
- Set your thermostat to 68° or cooler in the winter.
- Replace your furnace air filter every 6-12 months.



Solar Energy

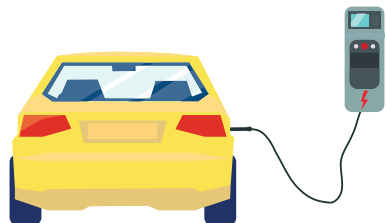
Installing rooftop solar is a great way to invest in renewable energy.

- The **Milwaukee Shines Solar Program** provides up to \$20,000 in financing for residential solar through Summit Credit Union: **milwaukee.gov/solar**
- The **Solar Group Buy Program** offers bulk savings on installations. Receive free education, site assessments and cost estimates: **growsolar.org/milwaukee**

Electric Vehicles

Swapping out a traditional gas vehicle for an electric reduces air pollution.

- **We Energies Residential EV Pilot Program** helps with the cost of electricity when you charge your vehicle at home in some off-peak hours: **we-energies.com**
- Find public EV charging stations: **plugshare.com**
- Learn more about EV charging: **milwaukee.gov/EV**





Protect & Preserve Our Water

Water is essential for people, wildlife, and the environment. Freshwater is for drinking water, growing crops, manufacturing, energy, waste disposal and more. As a coastal city on Lake Michigan, one of the world's largest freshwater reserves, Milwaukee has a responsibility to protect this and our other vital water resources for our residents, ecosystem, and future generations.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Reduce Your Water Consumption

- Save water and money by running your washer, dryer and dishwasher with full loads and cold water.
- Repair leaky faucets, showerheads and toilets. Install low-flow options.
- Take a 5-minute shower, which uses 10-25 gallons of water, rather than baths, which use up to 70 gallons.
- Find water use tips: milwaukee.gov/usewaterwisely

Safe Disposal

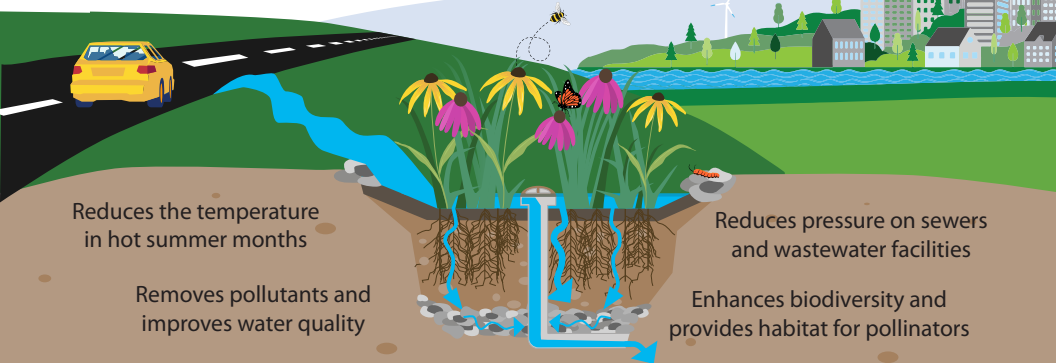
- DO NOT flush or pour medications down the drain. Bring to a disposal box: takebackmymeds.com
- Dispose of electronics, batteries and other tricky items at select locations: milwaukee.gov/recycles

Stormwater Management

Use green infrastructure to capture, absorb and store rain water and snowmelt to reduce excess stormwater, flooding and protect Milwaukee's lakes and rivers.

- Install rain barrels and gardens to capture stormwater and attract pollinators.
- Disconnect your downspout and redirect it to your garden.
- Sign up for water drop alerts and reduce your water use during major rain falls. Text WATERDROP to 414-296-4422.
- Support bioswale installation (seen below) in public infrastructure

Bioswale



Reduces the temperature in hot summer months

Removes pollutants and improves water quality

Reduces pressure on sewers and wastewater facilities

Enhances biodiversity and provides habitat for pollinators



Environmental Home Improvements

Reduce Waste

Waste reduction is another strategy to protect our precious natural resources like water. Proper disposal helps keep waste out of our waterways. Minimizing waste going to the landfill also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves air quality. Use the Five R's to reduce waste at home and in our community and environment.



ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

Refuse

- Start by refusing what you don't need, even when it's free. For example, politely decline knick-knacks, promotional freebies, single-use items like utensils and cups, and other non-essentials.

Rot

- Compost your food and yard waste at home, by hiring a local composting service or using a free food scrap drop off site. [milwaukee.gov/sanitation/Yard-Food-Waste](https://www.milwaukee.gov/sanitation/Yard-Food-Waste)

Reduce

- Whenever possible, make the choice to reduce what you don't need.
- Bring reusable or refillable storage containers like tote bags, tupperware, cups and water bottles on errands, to events, and daily activities.
- Repurpose items before recycling or throwing them away like using food jars for drinking or storage containers.
- Reusable items like old computers, clothing and appliances can also be repaired, donated, or sold.

Recycle

- For single-use plastics and other items use the City of Milwaukee's guidelines to properly dispose of them. [milwaukee.gov/recycles](https://www.milwaukee.gov/recycles)
- Plastic film can be dropped off at many grocery and retail stores around the city.

Not sure where to start? Conduct your own Home Waste Audit and visit [plasticfree.mke.org](https://www.plasticfree.mke.org) for more tips and tricks.



The following programs can be used to address code violations and emergency repairs. Some can also be used for standard home repairs.

- **Compliance Loan Program**

0% interest deferred payment loans for repairs to fix outstanding code violations on homes. Homeowners must meet income guidelines. Assistance is provided in selecting a contractor: **414-286-2567** or **milwaukee.gov/CLP**

- **Critical Home Repair Program**

Finance up to 80% of project costs for major home repairs such as code violations, based on income, through 0% interest loans paid back in installments. Available in select neighborhoods: **414-562-6100** or **milwaukeehabitat.org/repair-your-home**

- **Energy Assistance Program**

Qualified Milwaukee County residents can receive a one-time, annual payment toward heating and electric bills between October 1 - May 15: **414-270-4653** or **keepwarmmke.org**

- **Neighborhood Improvement Program (NIP)**

Provides residents with funds for home repairs within the program's geographic boundaries. Eligible work includes code violations, maintenance, and mechanical work. Assistance is provided by local service agencies working with local contractors: **414-286-3868** or **milwaukee.gov/NIP**

- **Revitalize Milwaukee**

Offers a range of free emergency and general home repairs to help income-eligible seniors, veterans, and people living with disabilities remain safe and healthy in their homes: **414-312-7531** and **revitalizemilwaukee.org**

- **STRONG Home Loans Program**

Low-interest and deferred loans \$1,000-\$25,000 for emergency and essential home repairs, including code violations. After 10 years, 25% of the loan up to \$5,000 is forgivable. Technical assistance is provided in preparing a scope of work for the property, obtaining bids, and managing construction. Homeowners must meet income guidelines: **414-286-5610** or **milwaukee.gov/STRONGLoan**





Home Repairs

Home repair programs can be used to make general improvements. For households making energy efficiency improvements, some programs may be used with energy efficiency financing.

- **Asthma Safe Homes Program**

Eligible families with children under age 18 and pregnant women with uncontrolled asthma can receive free asthma education and durables like HEPA vacuums. Severe cases can qualify for home repairs or modifications to reduce asthma triggers: **414-312-7531** or **revitalizemilwaukee.org/asthma-safe-homes-program**

- **Curb Appeal Grant Program**

50% matching grants of between \$200-\$1,500 for projects that improve the exterior of the home. Available for homes within a Targeted Improvement Neighborhood boundary: **414-286-5610** or **milwaukee.gov/DCD/NIDC/TINs**

- **Community Warehouse**

Offers new home improvement materials such as doors, windows, flooring, and cabinets at a discount price: **thecommunitywarehouse.org**

- **Home Energy Plus**

Offers diverse programs for low-income households to cover energy costs, heating/cooling system repairs or replacements, and weatherization services: **866-432-8947** or **energysandhousing.wi.gov**

- **Fresh Coast Resource Center**

Education and funding to manage stormwater through the installation of green infrastructure like rain barrels, rain gardens, native landscaping, stormwater trees, and soil amendments: **414-225-2222** or **freshcoastguardians.com/take-action/Residential**

- **Milwaukee Healthy Homes Program**

Eligible households can qualify for a free healthy home assessment and repairs that address moisture, health, contaminants and building code issues. Apply through Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity: **414-316-5616**

- **More Like Home Repair & Renew Loan**

Offers financing of up to \$50,000 for structural home repairs and environmental contaminants to Wisconsin residents in older homes: **morelikehomeloan.wheda.com**

- **Neighborhood Improvement Districts (NID)**

NIDs are funded and operated by businesses, property owners, and other community members located within each district's defined boundaries and



offer housing resources. Learn if your neighborhood has an active NID: **414-286-8201** or **milwaukee.gov/DCD/BusinessToolbox/bids**

- **Pipe Check Program**

Financial incentives available to residents within the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District service area to eliminate sources of clear water, water in your basement caused by rain or groundwater, from their home at a reduced cost: **414-225-2250** or **mmsd.com/what-you-can-do/managing-water-on-your-property/pipe-check**

- **ReStore Program**

Non-profit home improvement stores and donation centers whose proceeds are used to build safe, affordable homes. ReStores sell new and gently used furniture, building materials, appliances, and home accessories to the public at 50-70% below retail value: **414-257-9078** or **milwaukeeerestore.org**

- **Take Root Milwaukee**

A consortium of over 55 community organizations, neighborhood groups, housing counseling agencies, realtors, and lenders working to promote sustainable homeownership in Milwaukee. Take Root members offer free or low-cost services that help residents buy, keep, or fix a home: **414-921-4149** or **takerootmilwaukee.com**

- **Targeted Investment Neighborhoods (TINs)**

TINs focus resources for three years on a small area, typically 6-12 city blocks, in certain neighborhoods. TINs offer up to \$15,000 in forgivable matching loans for homeowners through the Home Rehabilitation Program: **414-286-5610** or **milwaukee.gov/DCD/NIDC/TINs**

- **Tax Incremental Districts (TID)**

This program provides forgivable loans to assist owner-occupants with repairs in a limited number of neighborhoods: **414-286-5447** or **milwaukee.gov/DCD/NIDC/HousingTIDs**

- **Tool Loan Center**

Find a variety of hand and power tools and more for your home improvement projects. Annual membership is \$20-25. **414-447-0705** or **hri-wi.org/home-owners/tool-loan-program**

Find more programs and resources by using the City of Milwaukee's Home Improvement Resource Navigator:

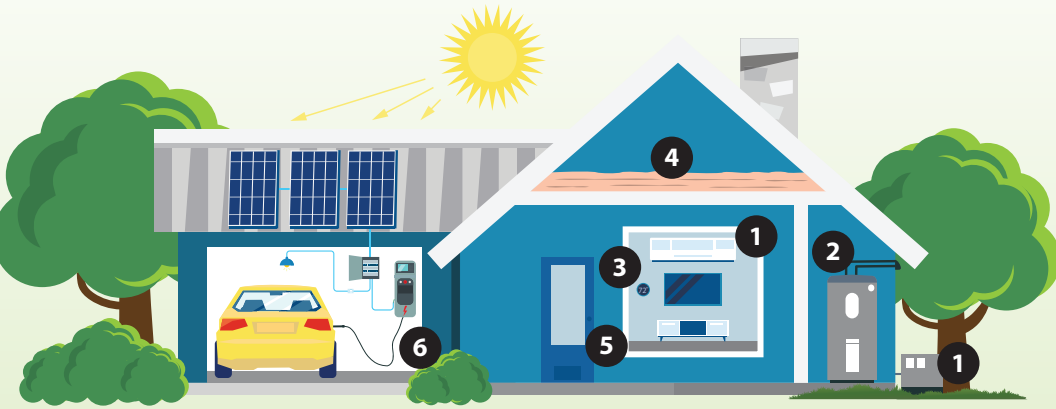
milwaukee.gov/housinghelpmke





ENERGY STAR®

Choose ENERGY STAR®-rated products and appliances whenever possible. **ENERGY STAR® Home Upgrade** provides steps you can take to reduce your home energy use: energystar.gov



Six areas of a home where efficiency improvements can be made:

1. Clean Heating and Cooling
2. Super-Efficient Water Heater
3. Smart Thermostat
4. Well-Insulated and Sealed Attic
5. High Performing Windows and Storm Doors
6. Electric Ready

Learn more about the City of Milwaukee
Environmental Collaboration Office (ECO) at:

milwaukee.gov/ECO



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