

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



May 2023

Building safety is people safety

May is Building Safety Month, and ensuring that people have a safe place to live, work and play is the guiding principle at the Austin Code Department (ACD) and Development Services Department (DSD).

Building Safety Month 2023 highlights the important personal, local and global actions that contribute to safe structures. With that in mind, ACD encourages you

to get prepared for a safe summer:

- » **Have your HVAC system inspected** to ensure it is working properly.
- » **Address crevices** that make it easy for bugs and rodents to invite themselves in.
- » **Manage vegetation** that can quickly grow this time of year, obstructing right of ways and providing a habitat for unwanted pests.

If you're doing renovations to your home or planning new construction, DSD is available to help with review,



permitting and inspections to ensure your project is safe.

Learn more about Building Safety Month at iccsafe.org/advocacy/building-safety-month and get to know your Austin Code Department at austintexas.gov/code and your Development Services Department at austintexas.gov/dsd.



Austin Energy Green Building helps with home renovations

Everywhere you look in Austin, a new building is going up, but renovation can be a more sustainable alternative to new construction. Renovating an existing home has many environmental benefits. Reusing materials in your existing home helps keep demolition waste out of landfills and saves on the energy and water required to produce, transport and install new materials.

Austin Energy Green Building can partner with you as you makeover your home, providing guidance on cost-effective improvements that help reduce utility bills and maintenance costs without sacrificing beauty and comfort. Learn more about Austin Energy Green Building ratings and get inspiration from case studies at greenbuilding.austinenergy.com.



Only you can prevent truck fires

Nearly 300 trash, recycling and compost trucks hit the streets of Austin daily to collect residential waste. All sorts of things end up in carts that have the potential to create a spark and lead to a truck fire, but of particular concern are batteries and electronics. Recycle and dispose of these items at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-off Center. Visit austintexas.gov/dropoff to make an appointment. Additionally, batteries may be dropped off at your local library branch. Keeping items like these out of your carts helps protect our operators and the planet.

Save energy and money during ENERGY STAR tax holiday

Mark your calendar for Memorial Day weekend, and the Texas Comptroller's annual ENERGY STAR® Sales Tax Holiday. This is a chance to potentially save hundreds of dollars on certain appliances with the ENERGY STAR sticker. The tax holiday runs from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, May 27 through midnight Monday, May 29.

According to the Comptroller's website, qualifying products with the ENERGY STAR label include:

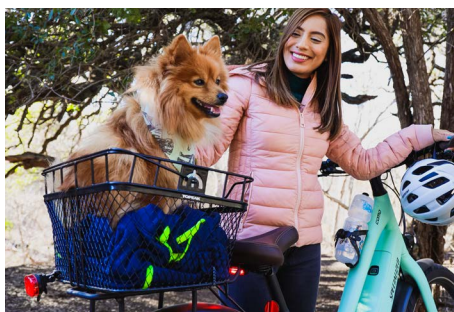
- » Air conditioners (with a sales price of \$6,000 or less).
- » Refrigerators (with a sales price of \$2,000 or less).
- » Ceiling fans.
- » Incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs.



- » Clothes washers.
- » Dishwashers.
- » Dehumidifiers.

For more information visit comptroller.texas.gov and search "energy star sales tax holiday."

Explore Austin on two wheels during National Bike Month



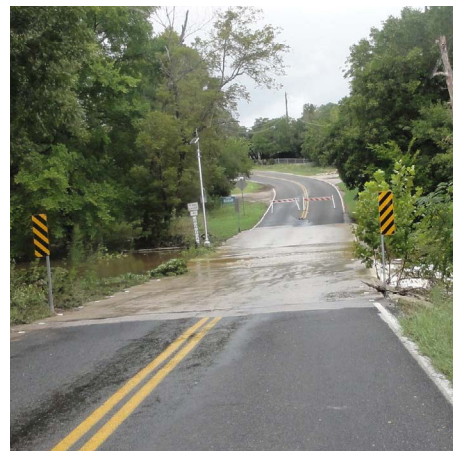
May is Bike Month! Whether you're biking to work for the first time on National Bike to Work Day — May 19 — or just taking a quick spin to a coffee shop, it's one of the best months to get on two wheels in Austin.

A bike ride can take you to the grocery store, a friend's house, a doctor's appointment or your

favorite local park to enjoy the best season in Central Texas. A ride also helps you find Austin's hidden gems and local charm! When you bike, you gain a new perspective and get closer to the sights, sounds and tastes of our city.

You don't have to have your own bike to ride either. In Austin, we have options. Try CapMetro's MetroBike service, or some of the all-electric options from Bird, Lime, Link and Wheels. Coming from farther away? Connect a bike or scooter rental along with a transit ride to get to your destination without a car or waiting for a rideshare.

Follow Get There ATX on Instagram or visit getthereatx.com to learn how you can get around Austin a better, faster, healthier way!



Spring rains could bring flooding

Austin is in the heart of Flash Flood Alley, and some of our biggest floods have been in the spring. To stay safe during a flood, try keeping off the roads and our flood-prone trails. If you must drive, remember to watch for water over the road and Turn Around, Don't Drown.

But driving isn't the only risk. There are also thousands of homes in Austin that are prone to flooding. Flooding can bring financial hardships. If your home is at risk, make a plan for responding to a flood. Consider purchasing flood insurance to protect yourself financially. To find out more about flood safety, visit atxfloodsafety.com.

BEFORE AN EMERGENCY

- Make a Plan
- Build a Kit
- Know Your Neighbors
- Stay Informed

Download the Ready Central Texas app. Sign up To get emergency alerts.

Save austintexas.gov/alerts to your favs and get up-to-date local emergency info in 13 languages.

Para obtener una copia en español de esta publicación, visite coutilities.com/go/utilitynews.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

East Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Rd.

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

South Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 1901 W. William Cannon Drive, Ste. 100

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