

# FACT SHEET: STEAM PIPE INSULATION



## What you need to know



### Steam pipe insulation

It takes a lot of energy to turn water into steam, and per the laws of thermodynamics, steam is always trying to condense back into water. That's why keeping your steam pipes hot is critical to making sure as much steam as possible makes it from your boiler to your radiators. Any steam that condenses along the way is wasted energy. The good news? Insulating your steam pipes can make a huge difference in helping you save energy – and it's simple to install.



### Wasted energy is wasted dollars

How much energy does an uninsulated pipe lose? A 2.5-inch steam pipe radiates around 260 BTUH per linear foot. This is more energy per foot than a typical radiator loses, and radiators are designed to do that. Multiply that energy loss by the entire run of uninsulated pipe in your basement and that adds up to a lot of lost energy!



### More than just energy savings

One other important benefit to insulating your steam pipes is that it helps lengthen the life of your pipework. Carbonic acid naturally occurs in condensate, and can eat away at steel. Since insulation helps to greatly reduce the creation of condensate, that means there's less carbonic acid to damage your pipework. This can help extend the life of your system.



## Breaking down the benefits

Check out the top three reasons you should insulate the steam pipes.

1. Saves energy
2. Helps to balance and provide even heating throughout your building
3. Insulated steam pipes usually provide a safe-touch temperature

## What you can do

### Take advantage of rebates

In addition to saving energy and money, the Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas Energy Efficiency Programs can help make the project that much more affordable with energy efficiency rebates. You can earn rebates when you insulate steam pipes, pipe fittings and pipe valves on qualifying steam heating boiler systems. Take a look at our rebate form or contact the program team to get started!

**For more information or to take advantage of available rebates, please call us at 855-849-8928.**