



# Alex's Cherry Pie

## INGREDIENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Pie Crust (makes 3 pairs of pie crusts):</b> | <b>Cherry Filling:</b>  |
| 4 ½ cups all-purpose flour                      | 2 ½ Tbsp tapioca flour  |
| 1 tsp salt                                      | 1/8 tsp salt  |
| 1 tsp baking powder                             | 1 cup sugar   |
| 1 Tbsp sugar                                    | 2 14.5-oz. cans drained Oregon brand cherries, tart or dark sweet |
| 1 lb lard                                       | 21-oz. can rinsed Duncan Hines brand cherry pie filling           |
| ½ cup cold water                                | ¼ tsp almond extract  |
| 1 tsp vinegar                                   | 1 egg, beaten   |
| 1 egg, beaten                                   | 1 Tbsp sugar  |

## DIRECTIONS

- 1 In a bowl, sift the flour three times through a fine mesh sifter. Mix all dry ingredients together.
- 2 Blend lard into dry ingredients using a pastry blender or fork and knife until mixture clumps are about the size of small peas.
- 3 In a separate bowl, combine water, vinegar and egg. Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until dough forms, blending well.
- 4 Divide into 6-8 balls. Roll out on flour sack cloth or parchment paper to prevent sticking of dough to surface. Note: If the house is warm, use ice water instead of cold water to keep lard from melting as dough is rolled and worked. Dough may also be frozen for future use.
- 5 For filling, mix tapioca flour, salt, 1 cup sugar, cherries and almond extract together in a bowl. Let sit for 15 minutes.
- 6 Roll out and lay pie crust in bottom of 9-inch pie tin and cut around pan leaving about 1 inch overhanging the edge.
- 7 Pour filling into bottom pie crust. Place top crust over filling and cut to about ¼ inch overhang.
- 8 Fold bottom crust over top and pinch crusts together into the typical pie crust triangle edging.
- 9 Using pastry brush, brush beaten egg over top crust, including edges. Sprinkle 1 Tbsp sugar on top.
- 10 Cut several slits in top pie crust to allow venting. Bake at 400 degrees for 30 minutes with tin foil wrapping crust edging.
- 11 Take tin foil off and continue baking another 20 minutes until crust is golden brown.

Growing up, Alex M. learned to bake from one of her neighbors. Alex grew up north of Havre, Montana, in a rural area where neighbors were few and far between.

"They were 3 or 4 miles down the road, but they were our closest neighbors," said Alex, Gas Operations Supervisor in Bozeman, Montana. "They're more like grandparents to me."

Alex's neighbor Janice is famous for her pies and shared all her pie recipes with Alex.

"They are my favorite pies to make and share with anyone who will have a slice," Alex said.

The crust is excellent.

"It's just really light and flaky," Alex said. "It's not greasy at all."

Of all Janice's pies, cherry pie is Alex's favorite.

At NorthWestern Energy, Alex schedules new natural gas construction projects, manages crews and makes sure our natural gas system is in compliance in terms of leak testing and other measures.

Alex's favorite thing about her job is spending time in the field.

"I enjoy spending time out with crews and getting to learn from them," she said.

Alex interned with NorthWestern in 2017. She graduated from Montana Tech with a degree in petroleum engineering and worked for two years in the California oilfields. Alex joined NorthWestern in November.

# CONTACT US

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We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karenic.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y karenic.

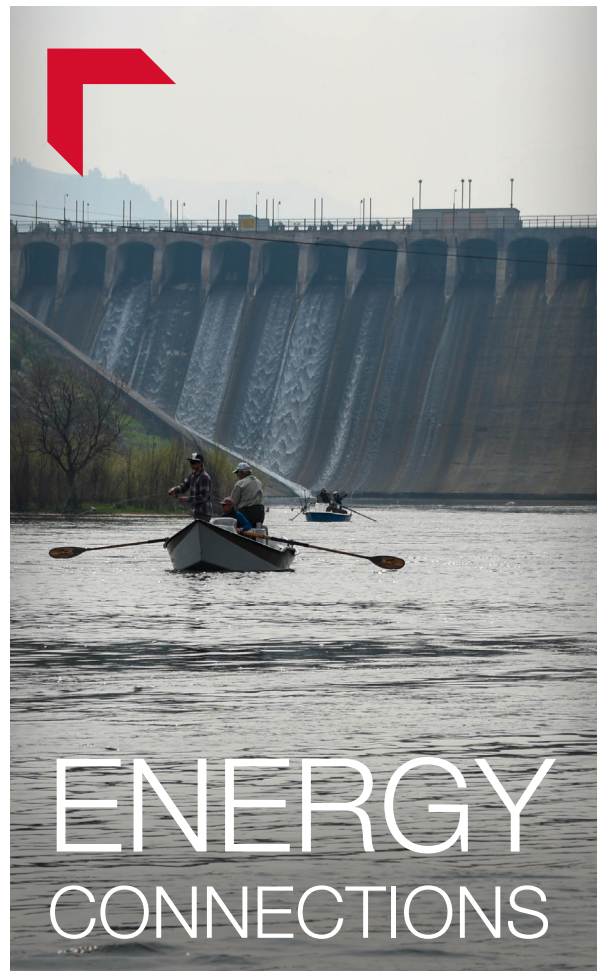
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# ENERGY CONNECTIONS

## LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- Blue-green algae
- Call before you dig
- Dam safety
- Gas line safety
- How to read your bill
- Alex's cherry pie recipe



## Stay away from algae

While most algae is not toxic, Montana does see toxic algae blooms on occasion. Blue-green algae blooms can occur anytime from May through October, but are most common during hottest summer months, according to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. Toxic blue-green algae can occur throughout Montana in any standing body of water that is exposed to the sun, including lakes, reservoirs and stock ponds. Certain conditions can lead to an algae bloom, including high levels of nutrients and warm water temperatures. If you see blue-green algae, which can look like pea soup or green latex paint, stay out of the water. Don't allow pets to drink the water or children to play in it. If you do enter the water, rinse off as soon as possible with fresh water. If you encounter an algae bloom, report it online at [hab.mt.gov](http://hab.mt.gov) or call 888-849-2938.

## Call before you dig

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? Know what's below – call before you dig. Smart digging means calling 811 or visiting [call811.com](http://call811.com) before each job.



**Know what's below.  
Tap, Click, or Call  
811 Before you dig.**

This service is free and calling before you dig is required by law. Call at least two full business days before you start any digging project. Once utilities are marked, be sure to hand excavate within 18 inches on each side of markings. If you ever hit a gas line, call 911 and NorthWestern Energy immediately. Even minor damage to a pipeline can result in future leaks.

## Be alert near dams

### Boating

Water levels can fluctuate rapidly near dams. Never take your boat past restrictive cables or warning signs. Depending on maintenance schedules and periods of high river flow, boat restraining systems upriver of a dam may not be in place. Never boat alone.

### Fishing

If you fish from a boat below a dam, always wear your life jacket and leave your engine running. The water below a dam can boil up and trap or capsize a boat. Anchoring below dams is dangerous and should never be done. Never fish alone.

### Wading

While wading, always wear your life jacket and use a walking stick in river channels. Never wade or swim alone.

If caught in the water or swept off your feet:

- Stay calm, lie on your back and don't try to stand up.
- Drop any items that weigh you down.
- Keep feet up and pointed downstream to avoid hitting rocks and entrapments.
- Go with the current and move diagonally across the current until you reach the shore.
- Roll onto dry land to drain boots or waders. Don't stand until the water is out of waders.
- If trapped on an island, signal for help. Don't risk crossing the river.

## Be Dam Safe



**Stop:** Take time to read the safety signs around dams and waterways.



**Look:** Watch for increased water velocity or water rising over previously exposed rocks or brush.



**Listen:** Listen for warning sirens that signal when the dam spill gates open.

## Notice: Responsibility of buried gas lines

The maintenance of buried gas piping downstream of the gas meter to gas-fired appliances or other structures on the property is the responsibility of the home/property owner or current occupant.

NorthWestern Energy is required to inform customers with privately owned natural gas or propane service lines of their responsibility to inspect and maintain their piping (Code of Federal Regulations 49 CFR 192.16). Customers should have the pipes periodically inspected for corrosion by qualified professionals, such as your local plumber. Any unsafe conditions should be repaired immediately or the flow of gas should be shut off.

## Recognizing a gas pipeline leak

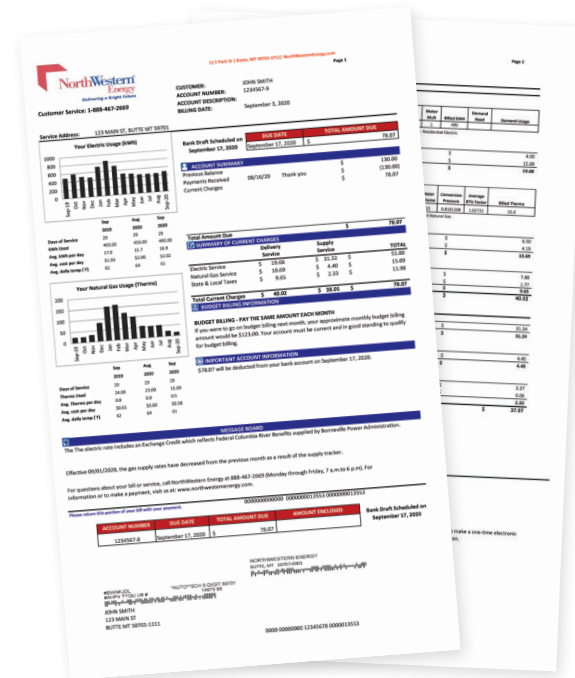
Call 911, if you notice any of these signs of a pipeline leak:

- An unusual blowing or hissing sound coming from the ground.
- Dirt or dust blowing from a hole in the ground.
- Bubbling ponds.
- Dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area near a pipeline right of way.
- A fire close to a buried pipeline.

## What to do if you smell natural gas

NorthWestern Energy makes it easy to detect natural gas leaks by adding an unpleasant rotten egg or skunk-like smell to natural gas. If you smell this odor:

- Leave the area immediately.
- Do not use phones, matches, light switches or anything else that could trigger the ignition of the gas.
- When at a safe distance, call 911.



## How to read your bill

When we get our energy bill every month, many of us only look at the amount due. However, your NorthWestern Energy bill contains much more information, and the more you know about your energy use, the better you'll be able to manage it.

Here are three things to pay attention to on your bill:

1. Review the 13-month graph to see how your energy use this billing cycle compares to recent months and to the same month one year ago.
2. Look at the information under the graph to compare days of service and average daily temperature. This can sometimes explain why a bill is higher or lower than normal.
3. Read the information in the Message Board area of the bill. It includes important information about rates and updates.

We also have a page on our website dedicated to explaining every item on your bill, everything from where to find your account number to how we calculate therms. For more information, visit [NorthWesternEnergy.com/ReadYourBill](http://NorthWesternEnergy.com/ReadYourBill)