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## LOCATE UTILITY SHUT-OFFS

**TOOLS:** Adjustable wrench or channel lock pliers.

**EXPERTISE LEVEL:** Easy.

**HOW:** Knowing where and how to turn off the gas, water and electricity is important for doing fixes around the house as well as during an emergency or natural disaster.

■ **Water:** The main shut-off may be inside or outside the house. To locate, start with the pipes under a sink, and work backward. The main shut-off may be in a utility closet; if you have a well, the shut-off may be at the pump or pressure tank. Also, each sink faucet, appliance or toilet will likely have its own shut-off valve if a fix needs to be made locally.

■ **Gas:** The shut-off is next to the meter on the outside of the house. The valve will need to be turned from a position parallel to the supply pipe to perpendicular or across the pipe. You might need to use an adjustable wrench or channel lock pliers.

■ **Electric:** The fuse or breaker box is the electric nerve center of your home, and where the main supply can be cut with the flip of a switch, usually labeled "MAIN." Also, individual circuits can be shut off. If your circuits aren't labeled clearly, that's a good project for a rainy day.

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**MORE TIPS ON PAGE 10H: REPLACE FURNACE FILTERS AND TOILETS**