



If necessity is the mother of invention, the lack of restaurants near Chelsea L.'s home have turned her into quite a cook.

"We live kind of out in the country, so we do a lot of cooking at home," said Chelsea, manager of electric transmission planning for NorthWestern Energy.

Chelsea likes to experiment with new recipes.

"I always follow a recipe at least once and then I tweak it from there," she said.

Chelsea's potato leek soup was created this way.

"It's a basic amalgamation of any leek soup recipe you would find," she said.

However, it doesn't skimp on the bacon.

"Most recipes have such an infinitesimal amount of bacon," Chelsea said.

Chelsea has been with NorthWestern for nine years. The electric transmission planning group, which Chelsea manages, makes sure our transmission system is keeping up with growth in our service area.

"We look at how the system is responding to events today and look at anticipated load growth as far out as 15 years," Chelsea said.

Chelsea's background is in engineering and mathematics, and she uses both of those skills in her current position.

"My job is varied and interesting and there are different challenges," she said. "I work with some really awesome people, and we get some really interesting projects."



## Chelsea's Potato Leek Soup

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound bacon, chopped
- 6-7 Yukon gold potatoes (the smallish ones), diced
- 48 oz chicken broth
- 3 leeks, diced (quarter the white part of the leek lengthwise, and cut small)
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 sprig of thyme (optional)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Place potatoes, broth, bay leaf and sprig of thyme in a pot. Bring to a gentle boil.
- In a separate cooking pot, cook the bacon until it is crispy.
- Set the bacon aside and drain out the bacon grease, reserving a generous tablespoon of grease. The bacon itself will be used as a garnish.
- In the pot that you cooked the bacon (that's now basically empty except for those delicious brown bits leftover from cooking the bacon), put in the leeks and the generous tablespoon of bacon grease and cook on medium-low for about 7-9 minutes, or until the leeks are soft and pungent, but not mushy.
- When the potatoes are done (about the same time that the leeks will be done), remove the bay leaf and thyme (if used), and remove about half of the cooked potatoes. Dump the remaining potatoes and chicken broth into the pot that's been cooking the leeks.
- In a blender, puree the potato/leek/chicken broth to achieve the consistency you desire. (For thinner soup, reserve more potatoes. For thicker soup, blend in more potatoes.)

7 Add in the reserved potatoes and season with salt and pepper to taste

8 Serve with the crispy bacon as a garnish. Enjoy!!

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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 karen.

ပညာရေးအဖွဲ့အစည်းများသည် ကျွန်ုပ်တို့၏အဖွဲ့အစည်းများကို ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်စေရန်အတွက် အားပေးဆောင်ရွက်ပါမည်။  
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# ENERGY CONNECTIONS

## LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- Natural gas winter safety
- Recognizing a gas pipeline leak
- What to do if you smell natural gas
- Carbon monoxide safety
- Employee feature
- Potato leek soup recipe

# WINTER SAFETY TIPS

## Check your meter vent

The natural gas meter's outdoor regulator vent must always be clear so the flow of natural gas into the home can be regulated properly. If this vent becomes plugged, the pressure of gas being pumped into the home could either increase or decrease to a dangerous level, resulting in a fire or explosion. Any airflow blockage can lead to big problems and even carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Clear a path to your meter

Shovel or plow a path to your meter and ensure your natural gas meter is visible at all times and accessible for maintenance and emergency responders.

## Don't bury your meter and vents

Take care not to cover meters when shoveling or snow-blowing.

## Watch for falling snow and ice

Check to ensure that melting snow or ice from the roof or nearby trees is not dripping on the meter, and that the meter is clear following rooftop snow removal.

## Plow with caution

Be sure to avoid meters and control panels (the large green electric boxes often located near walkways) while plowing. If you hit the equipment, be sure to report it right away.

## Keep your meter clear of snow and ice

Carefully remove snow or ice from the gas meter and any associated piping. Do this gently with a broom or by hand.

## Stay away from downed power lines

Heavy snow can bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, stay away from it and report it to NorthWestern Energy immediately. Assume all downed lines are energized and dangerous.

## 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 for you 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.

## Prevent carbon monoxide exposure

Natural gas isn't poisonous, but like other fuels, it produces carbon monoxide (CO) as it burns. Carbon monoxide must be vented properly to prevent CO poisoning.

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas appliance serviced every year.
- Install a CO detector in your home. If the detector sounds leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Seek prompt medical help if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.

