



Debbie Singer's first job out of college was with Whirlpool.

"I traveled around showing people how to use microwaves," Debbie said.

It was 1977, and the microwave was brand new. In an effort to boost sales, Whirlpool hired home economists to educate people on what can be done with a microwave. One of the demonstrations Debbie performed was making microwave peanut brittle.

Debbie still frequently makes her peanut brittle.

"It has a really good flavor, and it doesn't stick to your teeth," Debbie said.

In 1979, Debbie joined NorthWestern Energy, then Montana Power Company, as a consumer affairs specialist, developing safety education for kids and adults. Over the years, she's worked in energy efficiency and energy marketing. In 2001, she started working with our large customers as a key accounts and economic development specialist. That's the position Debbie held until her retirement last month after more than 40 years with the company.

"It's been fun; I've done a lot of different things," Debbie said. "Over 43 years, you see a lot."

As a key accounts specialist, Debbie maintains regular contact with our large industrial customers, meeting with them several times a year and providing 24/7 customer service. As an added bonus, at Christmas, Debbie has delivered a box of peanut brittle to her key accounts.

Debbie has enjoyed her career of helping businesses and communities thrive.

"In the end, we all work together as a team to take care of customer's issues," she said.



Debbie Singer's Microwave Peanut Brittle

INGREDIENTS:

- Cooking spray
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup white corn syrup
- 1 cup roasted, salted peanuts
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 ¼ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

DIRECTIONS:

1 Microwave cooking times may vary depending on wattage of microwave, and some higher wattage microwaves may require cutting 30 seconds from each cook time segment.

2 Lightly spray a cookie sheet with cooking spray (or grease with butter). Spray wooden spoon with cooking spray for spreading brittle later.

3 In a microwave safe 1 ½-quart glass bowl, stir together sugar and corn syrup. Microwave mixture on high for 3½ - 4 minutes.

5 Stir in peanuts. Microwave on high an additional 2½ to 4 minutes until a nice golden brown.

6 Add butter or margarine and vanilla to hot syrup/peanut mixture. Microwave on high 30 seconds to 2 minutes more. Be careful not to over brown.

7 Add baking soda and gently stir until light and foamy. Quickly spread mixture onto the greased cookie sheet with wooden spoon, as candy hardens fast. Let stand until cool. Break into small pieces.

Yields: 1 pound of brittle

CONTACT US

MONTANA

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 Call Before You Dig 800-823-5995
 Energy Efficiency

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CONSTRUCTION CENTER

1-83-FOR-BUILD (1-833-672-8453)

NorthWesternEnergy.com



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:

- Top 10 energy efficiency tips
- Hunting safety
- Pipeline purpose and reliability
- Pipeline safety
- Safety education materials
- Peanut brittle recipe

Top 10 Energy Efficiency Tips

Want to save energy and money at home? Check out these low-cost or no-cost energy efficiency tips.

- 1. Know what impacts your energy use.** Start by comparing your energy usage from month to month, or year to year, on your billing statement. Montana customers may also be eligible for a Home EnergyCheck. Learn more at NorthWesternEnergy.com/EnergyCheck
- 2. Evaluate your insulation levels.** Adding insulation will help keep your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Note: In the winter, cold floors and walls are signs of a poorly insulated home.
- 3. Check your heating equipment.** Make sure your furnace or other heating equipment is working properly by having it regularly checked and serviced. And change your furnace filter often!
- 4. Wrap your hot water tank and install pipe insulation.** Hot water tank wraps and pipe insulation can be purchased at most hardware stores. Wrap the tank and install pipe insulation on the first 10 feet of the hot water pipe coming off the tank.
- 5. Check your hot water heater's temperature.** Set your water heater to 120 degrees F.
- 6. Check your refrigerator and freezer temperatures.** Your fridge should be set between 37 and 40 degrees F and your freezer between 0 and 5 degrees F.
- 7. Inspect your windows and doors for air leaks.** You have air leaks if you can see daylight peeking around your door or window frame. Seal up the leaks by caulking, adding weather stripping or installing a door sweep.
- 8. Install low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.** These can be purchased at most hardware stores.
- 9. Change out your lightbulbs.** Replace incandescent lightbulbs with energy-efficient LEDs.
- 10. Look for tax credits and NorthWestern Energy rebates.** See if your energy efficiency projects qualify for tax credits or rebates. Learn more at NorthWesternEnergy.com/Rebates

Please don't shoot at power equipment

Unfortunately, every year during hunting season, some of our infrastructure is damaged by gun shots.

Vandalism to electric and natural gas equipment creates risk for our customers and crews. It threatens our service reliability and the safety of our personnel. It is also costly. Replacing a damaged transmission pole cost nearly \$10,000, including equipment and labor. These avoidable costs divert funds away from other projects and cost all of us money on our utility bills.

We want to remind all customers not to shoot at power lines, insulators, signs or any above-ground natural gas equipment – and to report any damage they might spot. Please call 911 to report illegal activity to law enforcement. Call NorthWestern Energy immediately if you spot damaged electrical or natural gas equipment.



Use caution around overhead power lines

When working on ladders or anywhere near overhead power lines, always be aware of where lines are located and keep your distance. Keep yourself, your ladder and any other equipment more than 10 feet from overhead power lines. Contact with power lines can result in serious injury or even death.

If equipment comes into contact with a power line, do not attempt to remove it. Call 911. If your vehicle comes into contact with a line, stay in the cab and call 911 for help. Trying to exit the vehicle can result in an electrical shock that could be deadly. A call to 911 could save your life.



Natural gas pipelines are safe and reliable

Pipelines are the safest way to transport energy products, including natural gas, crude oil and other fuels. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) regulates pipelines with the help of state partners.

According to government and industry statistics, the most common cause of pipeline incidents is improper or unauthorized digging near a pipeline, which is why it's important to call 811 before you dig. Pipeline operators carefully build, maintain and monitor the integrity and security of their pipelines.

Understanding gas pipeline markers

Markers, placed at all public road and railroad crossings, show the approximate location of pipelines and identify the companies that operate them. These markers indicate the pipeline content, the name of the pipeline operator and the operator's emergency phone number. Even if the pipeline is marked, you must call 811 to have utility lines marked before digging. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers.

How to recognize 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.

Teachers, enter to win a \$100 gift card!

We offer free classroom materials to educate students on the importance of electric and natural gas safety. Our materials support National Core Curriculum Standard.

Visit NorthWesternEnergy.com/kids to order. After ordering the materials, you can fill out a survey to be entered to win a \$100 gift card or one of two \$50 gift cards.