How to re-light a natural gas furnace

Before you try to re-light
Know what type of natural gas furnace you have. There are two types:
1. **Automatic Ignition Furnace**
   - Typically installed after 1990 – does not need re-lighting.
2. **Standing Pilot Furnace**
   - Typically installed before 1990 – does need re-lighting.

Unsure what type of furnace you have?
Start by removing the furnace door. Locate the control valve.
- If the valve has “On” and “Off” positions only, then you have an automatic ignition furnace.
- If the valve has “On,” “Off” and “Pilot” positions, you have a standing pilot furnace.

Testing automatic ignition furnaces
If you want to make sure your automatic ignition furnace is working, follow these steps:
1. Turn the furnace power switch off and on. The switch is usually near the furnace wall or ceiling.
2. Make sure your thermostat is turned up.
3. The furnace should re-light in a couple of minutes.
4. Listen or watch for the furnace to re-light.

Re-lighting standing pilot furnaces
Carefully follow the instruction plate or sticker on the furnace. As an example, the majority of standing pilot furnaces can be re-lit with these steps:
1. Turn the power switch off. Again, it is usually near the furnace wall or ceiling.
2. Carefully remove the furnace door.
3. Look for a pilot flame.
4. If no flame, turn the furnace control valve to the “Off” position.
5. Wait five minutes.
6. Have a match or barbecue lighter on hand.
7. After five minutes, turn the control valve to “Pilot.”
8. Press the pilot button and hold it while you use a match or barbecue lighter to light the pilot. You can locate the pilot by following the tubing from the control valve.
9. Once the pilot flame is lit, continue to hold the pilot button for one minute.
10. Release the pilot button. The pilot flame should stay lit. If it goes out, start the steps over.
11. Standing back at arm’s length, turn the control valve slowly from “Pilot” to “On.”
12. Turn the furnace power switch on.
13. Look for the furnace burners to light.
14. Carefully replace the door.