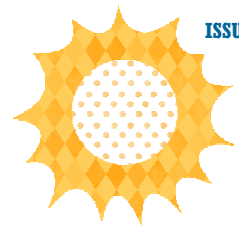




WATT'S UP



On the Back Page:

- Build to Energy Efficiency
- Lets Talk Vacations
- Prevent Overloading

KEEPING COOL.... WHAT'S THE REAL COST

It might surprise you to know that buying a bigger room air conditioner won't necessarily make you feel more comfortable during the hot summer months. An air conditioner that's too big for the area it is suppose to cool will perform less efficiently than a smaller, properly sized unit. This is because room units work better if they run for relatively long periods of time than if they are continually switching off and on. Longer run times allow air conditioners to maintain a more constant room temperature and remove excess humidity. Set your thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer. Don't start your air conditioner at a colder setting than normal. It won't cool your home any faster. Keep lamps and TV sets away from the thermostat. When purchasing an air conditioner always look for an Energy Star model.

ARE YOU A "DO-IT-YOURSELFER"?

DON'T FORGET THE ELECTRICAL Permits

According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, about 18,200 home fires are caused by electrical wiring each year, resulting in about 120 deaths, 520 injuries and \$450 million in property damage.

Protect your family and your property.

- **AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT IS REQUIRED.** Washington State electrical safety laws require a permit and inspection for ALL new and additional electrical work. An electrical permit and professional inspection assures that your electrical work meets current safety code.
- **Do electrical work only if you are qualified.** If you do not have a good understanding of electrical wiring and are not qualified, hire a licensed electrical contractor.
- **If you do your own electrical work, you must buy the permit and call for an inspection.**
- **If you hire a licensed electrical contractor, your contractor must buy the permit and will get the inspection.**
- **Never overload outlets, extension cords or electrical circuits.** If your circuit breaker trips, either it is overloaded or a circuit has malfunctioned and should be inspected by a qualified person.
- **Keep your permit and inspection approval in a safe place for future reference.** You may need it when trying to sell or refinance your home or to get insurance.
- **REMEMBER:** The surest way to safeguard your home is with an electrical permit and inspection. Lives depend on it!

Contact the nearest office of the Department of Labor & Industries to learn more, or go online to:

WHAT'S IN THE **BIG GREEN** METAL BOX

That big, green metal box in neighborhood yards is a pad-mounted power transformer installed by your electric utility. It delivers electricity to your home from the high voltage lines nearby. Painted to blend in with your landscaping, they are generally safe, but children should be taught to leave them alone. If the transformer case has been damaged or locks on the cabinet doors have been broken, notify us immediately. Okanogan County PUD employees would appreciate you keeping a clear area around the transformer for easy utility access. **Keep shrubs and structures at least 8 feet away from the front opening side and three feet away from the other sides. Our workers need room to work safely and quickly.**

Please **don't** let children play on or nearby pad-mounted transformers.





We're on the Web!
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PREVENT OVERLOADING

Be smart...don't overload the outlets. If you have a two-plug receptacle, use only two appliances per receptacle. If you need more outlets, use another receptacle. Overloading the circuit by overloading the outlet can cause the circuit breaker to trip or fuse to blow.



LET'S TALK VACATIONS



It's time for a break and you're off on a vacation *but* working hard at home is your electric meter. See your meter never takes a break. That's because electricity is used regardless of whether or not you are home. While it seems to make no sense, your energy bill can be the same or even higher when your home is unoccupied. Why? Well equipment, motors and electrical devices use power, whether or not anyone is home. Additionally, certain activities in the home such as clothes drying, cooking, bathing and human activity generates heat. Without this activity, your heating system is required to work harder to make up the difference when you're not at home. The second biggest user of electricity is your water heater. If you will be gone for more than two days, you might want to consider turning off the heater. Left on, the water heater will work to keep the water in the tank heated to 120 to 140 degrees even while you're away. Refrigerators and freezers draw electricity to keep your food cold and frozen in your absence. Any thing that uses clocks, memory, remote control and instant-on features, such as televisions and VCR's, consume small amounts of electricity even when turned "off". Unplug those items before you leave. Lights left on 24 hours a day also can use a significant amount of energy. A timer will save you money. So plan ahead before vacationing. After you have let your meter know you are gone by turning down and shutting off everything that makes sense, you can enjoy your vacation with the knowledge you aren't wasting energy or money.



BUILD TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY

HERE IS THE PLACE TO START:

As blueprints are being prepared that's the place to start to design energy efficiency into your home or building. Energy efficient homes and buildings can include a variety of "tried-and-true" measures that contribute to improved quality, comfort, and to lower energy demand:

Effective insulation, high-performance windows, tight construction and ducts, efficient heating and cooling equipment, efficient appliances, lighting and products.

(always look for the energy star logo or label when buying equipment, appliances or products.)



Including these measures into your home or building design results in benefits such as:

Peace of Mind, Lower Ownership Cost, Better Performance, Smart Investment and Environmental Protection.

So find the house or building of your dreams, incorporate energy design into your plans, and enjoy knowing that it's truly energy efficient.

For more information on energy efficient measures or programs your PUD has to help please call 422-8427 or 422-8428.

