



POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

JANUARY 2012

BRRR....Bundle yourself up for the winter!!

Temperatures are dropping...and whether inside your home or in the outdoors...cold weather can be dangerous. Older people and young children are especially susceptible to accidental hypothermia, a condition that occurs when body heat is lost faster than it can be created.

Here are some tips to help you and your family stay safe and warm this winter:

- Wear several layers of loose, warm clothing. If your clothing becomes wet, change it immediately!
- Keep your head covered when you are outdoors, and wear mittens or gloves.
- Exercise moderately to produce body heat.
- Eat balanced, healthy meals.
- Save energy when you can, but not at the expense of your health. If you or family members are in a "risk" category, keep indoor temperatures at 70 degrees or above.

Symptoms of hypothermia:

- Shivering
- Clumsiness or lack of coordination
- Slurred speech or mumbling
- Stumbling
- Confusion or difficulty thinking
- Poor decision making, such as trying to remove warm clothes
- Drowsiness or very low energy
- Apathy or lack of concern about one's condition
- Progressive loss of consciousness
- Weak pulse
- Slow, shallow breathing



2012



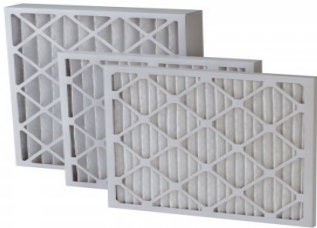
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!!

OUT WITH THE OLD! IN WITH THE NEW!

Change Your Filters

When was the last time you changed your heating and cooling system filters? Well if it's been a while, you better take a look. Because chances are they're coated with dirt. And lint. And who knows what else? Which makes it very tough for air to get through. Which makes your heating and cooling system consume a lot more electricity. Which means bigger power bills. So, change your heating and cooling system filters regularly. So your money doesn't vanish into thin air.

A new heating system filter costs about \$5. A dirty one can cost a lot more!



Generators are a great precaution against unpredictable winter weather. But a double-throw switch is a must when using them!!

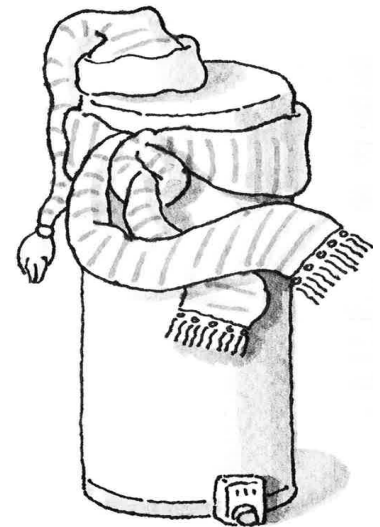
If you are interested in purchasing a generator, a Cooperative representative will work with you or a licensed electrician to correctly determine what size generator you need to keep electrical current to your home or farm during an extended outage. With our new meter technology, we can now determine maximum kWh usage from the office.

Probably the most practical generating units for the home are the ones with the engine connected directly to the generator—either portable or permanent. But remember – You must use a double-throw switch to keep power from feeding back onto utility company lines and only a qualified electrician should install a generator. Call your local district office for more information about sizing generators.

Warm Up Your Water Heater

Almost half of the water that people use at home is hot water. That makes water heaters big energy users. To keep energy costs from scalding your pocketbook, try these suggestions to improve the efficiency of your water heater:

- Insulate the outside of the water heater tank with an insulation jacket. They are inexpensive and will soon pay for themselves in lower electric bills.
- Lower the water heater thermostat to a range appropriate for daily household needs. A 140° setting is fine for homes with a dishwasher. No dishwasher? Then set the thermostat between 120° - 110°.
- Turn down your water heater when you are away from home. Or, consider using a time clock on the heater to ensure that you have hot water only when you need it.



As we step from the old year into the new, we extend best wishes to our member-owners and their families.

**Health, happiness and prosperity head our list of wishes for you. And with our wishes comes our pledge that stays the same --- year in, year out ---
Reliable service for you.**