



POWER FACTS

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

OCTOBER 2014

Draft dodgers: Weather stripping your home

There is no doubt about it; the cold weather is on its way. Not only is it important to make sure that your heating unit is working properly, but you should check your home to make sure that none of that heat is escaping.

When the weather turns colder, drafts around windows and doors are constantly letting in cool air. Most people will immediately want to raise their thermostat even higher; however, that will cause you to use more energy when you don't necessarily need to. The best solution is to weather strip your home. This is typically an easy fix that will eliminate energy waste and help you save on your monthly electric bill.

Sometimes drafts are obvious, and other times the openings are much smaller. Here are two quick ways to find out if heat is escaping from your home. For doors, look for daylight between the door and its frame, if you see even a hint of light in between the two, you need to weather strip that area. For windows, place a piece of paper between the sash and the seal then close it. If you can remove the piece of paper from the window without ripping it, you need to weather strip that area as well.

The great thing about all of this is that weather stripping is easy! There is an assortment of materials available to you (like rubber, foam, metal, etc.) and they are all inexpensive. Once you have purchased what

you need, keep the following in mind before you begin weather stripping: be sure the surface is dry and clean, measure the area more than once for best accuracy, and apply so that strips compress both sides of the window or door.

To weather strip windows:

- Place the stripping between the frame and the sash.
- Be sure that it compresses the window when shut.
- Check to make sure that the stripping does not interfere with the moving of the window.

To weather strip doors:

- Choose the proper sweeps and thresholds for your door.
- Weather strip the entire door jamb.
- Make sure the stripping meets tightly at both corners.
- Use a thickness that allows for a tight press between the door and the ground, but one that does not make the door difficult to shut.

Roughly half of the energy that your home uses comes from heating and cooling. So the next time you feel an uncomfortable draft in your home, do not immediately crank up the heat. Check to find out where the draft is coming from and properly weather strip the area. This will ultimately save you more energy and more money in the end.

~ Amber Bentley

WHAT WILL I NEED TO WEATHER STRIP DOORS AND WINDOWS?

There are a variety of materials available to weather strip your home. Here are a few options to help you choose:

*Apply weather stripping around the door frame and stop. At the bottom of a door, install a door sweep, door shoe or threshold; or apply reinforced-foam weather stripping. Apply weather stripping at the top and bottom of window sash.

FELT

Reinforced with a flexible metal strip. Should be stapled, glued or tacked into place.

Cost: Low

Advantages: Easy to install and inexpensive.

Disadvantages: Low durability. Do not use where exposed to a great deal of moisture. All-wool felt is more durable but very visible.

ROLLED OR REINFORCED VINYL

Pliable or rigid strip gasket (attached to wood or metal strips).

Cost: Low to moderate.

Advantages: Easy installation, various colors to help with visibility and some types of rigid strip gaskets provide slot holes for height adjustment.

Disadvantages: Very visible.

REINFORCED FOAM

Closed-cell foam attached to wood or metal strips.

Cost: Moderately low

Advantages: Effective sealer, rigid, proven to work well.

Disadvantages: Can be difficult to install and very visible.



Source: Department of Energy

*For more weather stripping options, visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/weatherstripping>

Free Trick-or-Treat Bags



It's that time of year again when the little ghosts, goblins and fairy tale princesses come to life and wander our streets in search of candy and other goodies. Don't forget to come by your local Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative office and pick up a free trick-or-treat bag for your child/grandchild. These Halloween bags are great for kids because they are brightly colored, have easy-grip handles, and hold lots of treats.

Have a Happy Halloween and remember to talk to your children about safety when they are trick-or-treating. We want all of our little goblins to have a fun and memorable experience.

October Sales Tax Holiday: Energy Star and WaterSense Qualified Products



The 2014 Energy Star Sales Tax holiday will take place Friday, Oct. 10, 2014, through Monday, Oct. 13, 2014.

What's Exempt: During this period, purchases of certain Energy Star and WaterSense qualified products purchased for non-commercial use and costing \$2,500 or less will be exempt from sales tax. The exempt Energy Star items include dishwashers, clothes washers, refrigerators, air conditioners, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and programmable thermostats that carry the Energy Star designation. The exempt WaterSense items include bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories, and toilets.

For more information, visit the Virginia Department of Taxation website at www.tax.virginia.gov.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



As one of the more than 29,000 businesses observing this annual celebration, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative wants you to know that we are proud to be included in this great network. We are a part of this celebration because of you...our member-owners. So thank you! Because of you, we are celebrating our 76th year of being your Cooperative.