

NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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LAUNDRY DAY CONSERVATION TIPS

Before we had the convenience of electric washers and dryers, laundry day was quite a chore, requiring a great deal of physical energy. With today's appliances, that physical load has been reduced substantially as we allow electricity to perform the majority of the labor. But there's no reason to have laundry day consume any more kilowatt-hours of energy than necessary to get the job done. Here are some tips to help keep the load on your meter at a minimum.

CLOTHES WASHERS

- Follow detergent instructions carefully. Adding too much detergent actually hampers effective washing action and may require more energy in the form of extra rinses.
- Set the washing machine temperature to cold or warm and the rinse temperature to cold as often as possible.
- Wash only full loads of clothing, but do not overload the machine.
- Sort laundry and schedule washes so that a complete job can be done with a

few cycles of the machine carrying its full capacity, rather than a greater number of cycles with light loads.

CLOTHES DRYERS

A typical home uses 360 to 1,400 kilowatt-hours per year to operate the clothes dryer. To become more energy efficient with your laundry, follow these tips:

- Hang your laundry outside when weather permits.
- Clean the lint filter thoroughly after each use.
- Dry towels and heavy cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight fabrics.
- Avoid over-drying. This not only wastes energy, but harms the fabric as well.
- Run dryer loads back-to-back to take advantage of the heat that is already in the dryer.

BUYING TIPS

If you're in the market for a new washer or dryer, consider these suggestions:

- Look for a clothes washer with several water level options (to adjust to different loads). Also, look for pre-soaking and suds-saver options.
- Consider using a front-loading or horizontal axis washing machine.
- Look for units with automated moisture sensors to reduce drying time.

- Look for the energy-efficiency label and compare consumption. Brands with the Energy Star logo are good choices.



HOLIDAY



NORTH PLAINS
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 29,
FOR MEMORIAL DAY.



WHY SURGE PROTECTION?

- The National Lightning Safety Institute estimates that lightning strikes cause from \$5 billion to \$6 billion of damage each year—mostly from computer and data loss.
- Lightning can strike up to 7 miles away from your home and still cause significant damage.
- Surge protectors extend the lifetime of sensitive electronic equipment by protecting against both major voltage surges and minor, everyday power fluctuations.
- Sixty-five percent of all transient power surges generate from inside the home.
- Even common household items

such as air conditioners and furnaces can generate 1,000-volt spikes.

• Today's microprocessor-based technology has changed the way people live, work and play. However, this sensitive technology is highly susceptible to electrical surge damage. Worse yet, damaging surges can happen anywhere and at any time.

That's why NPEC provides members with advanced surge protection. Store-brought power strips simply aren't enough to protect today's home electronics from even minor power surges.

We offer Tesco brand meter base protectors and Panamax plug-in pro-

tectors which can extend the lifetime of sensitive electronic equipment by protecting against both major voltage surges and minor, everyday power fluctuations. Panamax plug-in protectors offer superior three-stage protection that ordinary over-the-counter devices just can't match.

NPEC also offers uninterruptible power supply systems, high-quality products that not only protect sensitive computers from electrical disturbances but also provide battery backup. So even if the power goes out, your data won't be lost.

Contact Bill Carson for more information and prices.



You have the power to make a difference.

Fuels used to generate electricity are getting more expensive. That's driving prices up. Your electric cooperative is working hard to make a difference.

And you can do your part, too.

Install a programmable thermostat to make your home more energy efficient. About half of your electric bill is spent heating and cooling your home. Contact North Plains Electric Cooperative for more information.