

# Tips and tricks for using electricity more efficiently

## You can lower your heating bills

The following energy saving tips, are simple, low- or no-cost, and will help you get more control over your home's electric bills according to the Edison Electric Institute, the national association of electric companies.

The tips cover the two largest energy using appliances in your home— heating/cooling and water heating. In becoming more efficient, you'll also improve your home's comfort and convenience. You'll make it kinder to the environment too.

**Household Heating and Cooling**

- Change your air conditioner's or heat pump's filter every month or two, depending on how dirty it is. You should be able to see light clearly through the filter. If not, it needs to be changed.
- During hot summer days, keep curtains drawn and shades pulled over windows facing east, south, and west.
- Move furniture away from the air registers, allowing for the free flow of cooled or heated air.
- Consider a set-back thermostat to control your heating and cooling systems. Most air conditioners can bring your home's temperature down to a set level within a half an hour. This thermostat limits the air conditioner's use to when people are at home.
- Place your thermostat on an inside wall, away from windows and doors. Drafts will cause the thermostat to keep the heating or cooling system running, even if the rest of the house is comfortable.
- Close cooling vents in unused rooms. Also, when using window air conditioners, don't forget to close doors to unused rooms.

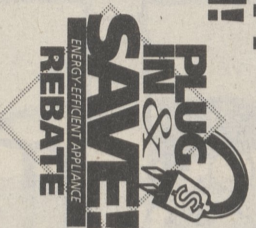
**Water Heating**

- In the average house, the water heater is the second largest energy user after space heating.
- Select the right size water heater for the household. Keeping more hot water on hand than needed wastes electricity.
- Set the water heater at 120 degrees for normal use; for dishwashers without temperature boosters, set the heater at 140 degrees. (Use a regular thermometer under a faucet to check the temperature.)
- If the sides of the water heater feel warm to the touch, wrap a water-heater blanket around the water heater, especially if the water heater is located in an unheated area of the house. In addition to insulating the water heater, wrap pipe insulating around the hot water pipe leaving the water heater for at least the first six feet.
- Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators to get the most use from your hot water heater.
- Timers can limit nighttime heating of the storage tank.

# Save energy & money on your next home improvement project.

## Use energy-efficient electric appliances and you'll save all year 'round!

Whether you're renovating your entire house, or just making a few home improvements, be sure to insulate your home properly and select electric appliances with the Highest Energy Efficiency Ratings. Why? Because an energy-efficient electric heat pump, water heater and clothes dryer



not only offer year 'round savings... they could also mean an added rebate from UGI Electric! Now through November 30, an electric clothes dryer may qualify you for a \$60 rebate, an electric water heater can bring you \$75, and an electric heat pump rebate is worth \$100. A limited number of rebates are still available.

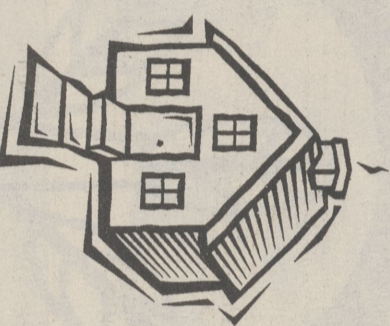
Remember, Energy-efficient electric appliances save you money now—and for many years to come. For more information, or to apply for your rebate, call (717) 693-2771.



Offer available only to residential customers of UGI Electric Service. Rebate amount varies by appliance. See UGI Electric Service website for details. Rebate program ends November 30, 1996, and is limited to a predetermined number of UGI residential customers for each appliance.



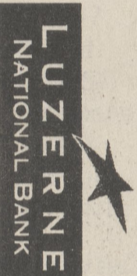
Home automation systems can help monitor your home's heating and cooling systems.



Home free.

Our fees are on the house, so welcome to a quick, affordable Home Equity Loan.

Why spend time waiting for a home equity loan? We'll prequalify you in just 24 hours, give you a great rate, and get you the cash you need for a family vacation, a new car, bills, school or any worthwhile purpose. For an application, call or stop in today.



Quick, Affordable Home Equity Loans

118 Main Street, Luzerne • 288-4511  
801 Main Street, Swyersville • 287-1141

# Fall garden basics, 3 easy steps to a beautiful spring garden

Winter may be on its way, but don't put away those garden tools just yet. October is one of the busiest months in the garden and a critical time for green thumbs to lay the foundation for a gorgeous display of spring blossoms. Everything you do now to freshen plants and flowers will directly improve their appearance next spring.

• Your fall gardening chores can be organized into three easy steps: planting trees and shrubs, planting bulbs, and yard and garden cleanup," says Mike Mitchell, a nursery manager at The Home Depot. "Autumn is the best time to plant shrubs, trees, and flowering bulbs. It's also a great time to give your garden a thorough cleaning—not the most enjoyable aspect of gardening, but essential for a good spring growing season."

**Planting Trees And Shrubs**

Don't wait until spring to plan new trees and shrubs. Put them in the ground now to give them a head start. Come spring, you'll have a garden that's in full swing.

When selecting a new tree or shrub, do your research. Consult nursery personnel to determine how large the tree or shrub will be at maturity. A little forethought will insure your selection won't outgrow the garden in 10 or 15 years. Also learn about the plant's root system, water requirements, growing habits and seasonal changes.

When planting a new tree or shrub in the fall, be sure to protect it against winter's harsh elements. Adding a little mulch around the stem will protect new plants' tender root systems from winter winds. This also works well with rose bushes, mums, clematis vines, most small fruit trees and shrubs and any sensitive perennials.

Autumn is also a good time to cut back and prune deciduous shrubs and most perennials—particularly evergreens, peonies, roses and hydrangeas. Fall pruning puts less stress on the plant's systems and enables it to heal easier.

**Planting Bulbs**

After a long, cold winter, spring bulbs are a welcome blast of color and well worth the effort of a fall planting. Bulbs such as tulips, daffodils and hyacinth require a period of extreme cold to stimulate their growth, and must be put in the ground in the fall. To preserve the enduring beauty of your garden, plant at least several new bulbs each year. Some bulbs stop blooming after a few years and others get damaged by rot or wild animals.

When planting bulbs, there is really only one rule to follow: duplicate the way plants grow naturally. Loose, informal groupings are much more attractive than awkward, artificial plantings in straight lines, or other geometric patterns. Don't worry about planting too many bulbs; just be sure you remember what's already been planted so older bulbs aren't damaged as new ones are added.

**Cleanup And Composting**

Cleaning up the yard may not be as fun as planting, but it does have its rewards. Those fallen leaves and twigs you're collecting are key ingredients for gardener's gold—more commonly known as compost.

Compost is the end-product that results from the decomposition of organic materials. The nutrients and microorganisms within can turn your garden into a real showcase. Adding compost to soil will improve its structure, texture, aeration and water-holding capacity.

Compost piles are built by alternating layers of carbon, or "brown materials" such as straw and leaves, with nitrogen, or "green materials," such as grass clippings and kitchen scraps, with a small layer of soil in between. Add water as you put the ingredients in, but don't overdo it.



Buy One Between-Glass Option, Get the Second Free!\*

\* Now, buy a Pella® Designer Series™ SmartSash® window with your choice of factory-installed Slimshade® blinds, pleated shades, or grilles. Buy a second SmartSash® window and get the blinds, shade or grille of equal or lesser value...free!

See us today for these special "buy one, get one free" savings. And be sure to check with us if you need help with installation. Don't delay...this money saving offer definitely ends October 12th!

Never before such outstanding savings on Pella® Windows!



Located one block past Mundy Street on Route 309  
229 Spring Street  
WILKES - BARRE  
823-7825



## Back Mountain Bottled Gas Gas Fireplaces & Inserts

- Featuring Heat-N-Glow Fireplaces
- One-draw Fire Stoves
- Atlanta Stoves & Heaters
- Direct Vent & Vent Free Installation
- We Also Carry
- Gas Logs
- Heaters
- Hot Water Heaters
- Water Cooler Rentals
- Bottled Spring Water

Call For Low, Low Prices on LP Gas Bulk & Cylinder Delivery

Located 1/4 Mile East off Rt. 29 on Rt. 118  
Same Location as Country Satellite  
717-477-2648  
HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-12



## We'll Work Just As Hard To Give You The Best Home Equity Loan Possible.

We can't take credit for all the equity you've built in your home. But we can make it easier for you to keep up the good work. Simply stop by any Melton office. And let us fix you up with a home equity loan. You'll find us very easy to work with.



You're why we do our very best.

© 1995 Melton Bank Corporation Member FDIC