

RG&E consumer news



More About Lighting

By Miss Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

I have talked about the energy costs of using various appliances with the hope that having this information will help you conserve energy and also reduce your gas and electric bill.

Consumers have been asking me whether much of a savings can be realized from turning the lights out when leaving a room. Lighting actually comprises a relatively small part of a household's monthly electric bill.

Increased care in using lights will not bring drastic savings, elimination of wasteful use is still beneficial. Small ways of conserving energy can be helpful when done in conjunction with more significant ways. In general, it is a good idea to turn off the lights when leaving a room.

Incandescent bulbs: The life of an incandescent bulb is not severely affected by the number of times it is turned on and off. Turning a light on and off does not take more electricity than leaving it on because the surge of power necessary to start an incandescent bulb is very brief.

Fluorescent bulbs: The life of a fluorescent tube is determined by the number of hours it is on each time it is turned on. Years ago it was more economical to leave fluorescent lights on rather than turn them off and restart them. Improvements have been made. Today you will save money if you turn the lights off when you plan to be out of the room for any length of time. However, when you will be gone for less than five minutes it is more economical to leave the lights on.

It is also a good idea to dust lights bulbs and fixtures regularly. Bulbs, shades and bowls of table lamps accumulate dust very readily. An accumulation of dust can reduce light output by as much as 50% according to one major light bulb manufacturer. Careful maintenance will ensure that you get the light which you are paying for!

Free Booklets and Reprints Available

RG&E has several pieces of free informational literature which are available for the asking. If you would like one or more of them, please mail in the coupon and indicate which ones you want by number.

1. **Oven Meals.** Recipes and menus for dinners. Most or all of the courses can be cooked in the oven at the same time and temperature.

2. **Watt-Watcher's Handbook.** A booklet which helps you understand how much it costs to operate over 50 gas and electric appliances. Includes tips on how to use several appliances more efficiently.

3. **53 ways to save on your gas and electric bills.** How to cut down on heating, air conditioning, lighting, water heating, and cooking costs, among others.

4. **Reprint of Insulation Series.** Ways proper insulation can benefit you. Various kinds of insulation and their applications.

5. **The Basic Guide to Cooking.** A basic cookbook. Excellent for the beginner—the new bride, the bachelor, etc. Has section on nutrition, meal planning, measurements and kitchen vocabulary.

6. **Buying Guides.** Nine guides to help you select an appliance. Please indicate which **Buying Guide** in which you are interested. We have a **Buying Guide** on Automatic Washers, Dryers, Freezers, Refrigerators, Small Appliances, Electronic Ovens, Ranges, Dishwashers and one on Warranties.

Make your winter more comfortable February Consumer Information Center Features Power Humidification

During the month of February, RG&E's Consumer Information Center will feature power humidification. This is your

chance to come and talk, "home humidity," with an expert. You will find out how adequate humidification will make your win-

ter more comfortable.

For years everyone believed we had to suffer dry skin, scratchy throats, excess static electricity, and creaky furniture as a fact of winter. Often we felt chilly even though the thermostat was set within the normal comfort range.

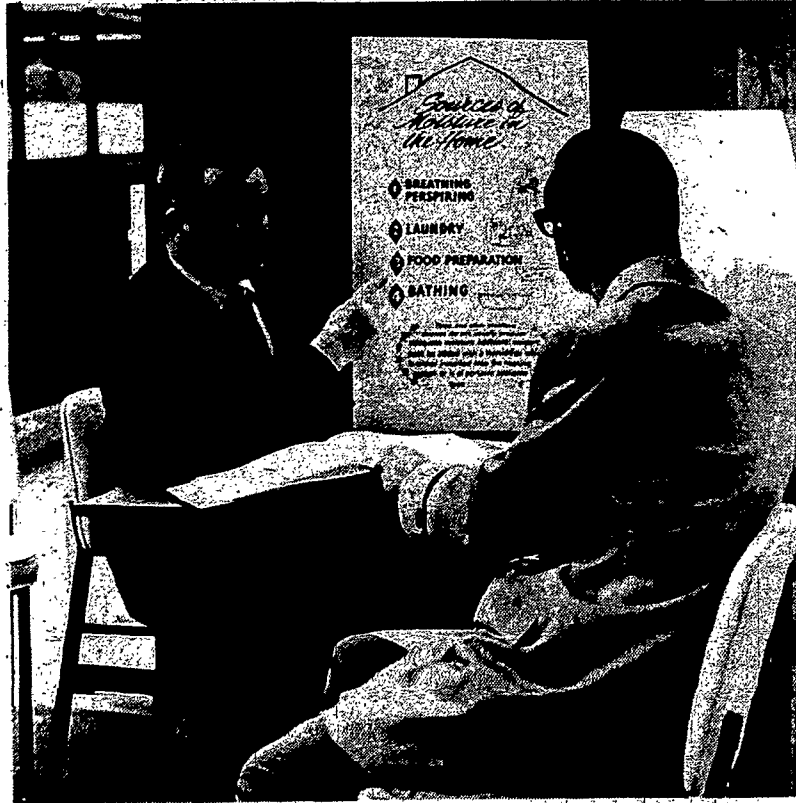
These problems are a result of too-dry air in the home, and they are easy to solve. Low humidity is a common problem in Rochester; once you understand it you will see how simple it is to stay comfortable all winter long.

When the air in your home is heated, its relative humidity (the amount of moisture in it compared to the amount of moisture it is capable of holding) drops. This means it can hold more moisture and it will draw moisture from your family, your furniture and your home, causing them to dry out. Cooking, baking, laundering, dishwashing, and even breathing add needed moisture to the air, but this is usually not enough to keep you comfortable. You may find yourself turning the thermostat up above a normal comfort range because you feel cold without proper humidity. This is wasteful of fuel. Money, too, because you will use an additional 3% of your fuel consumption to heat your home each degree over 70°.

You can add moisture to your home's winter air with power humidification. If you have a forced-air system, you can add a central humidifier to it near the furnace. Or, you can use a portable humidifier designed to serve several rooms.

In Rochester's climate you will be comfortable at a relative humidity of 30% to 35%. A small gadget known as a humidiguide, available at department and hardware stores, will tell you the approximate humidity in your home. If yours doesn't measure up—and most Rochester homes don't unless they have power humidification—stop in at the Consumer Information Center and let us help you.

The Consumer Information Center is located on the main floor of our 89 East Avenue office. Residential representatives will be on hand Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Tuesday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., to answer your questions. We want your winter to be as comfortable as possible.



Visit the Consumer Information Center and talk about humidification with an expert from RG&E.

Cover your Fireplace opening as fire dies; reduce warm air loss

You will reduce warm air loss up your chimney and lower your heating bill somewhat if you cover your fireplace opening as the fire goes out.

Tests performed by RG&E's Residential Department on one type of covering indicated that heat loss was reduced when the covering was placed in position to seal the fireplace opening. The best way to stop heat loss through the chimney is by keeping the damper closed, but this is not always possible. The damper cannot be closed until a fire is completely out and you may not wish to wait for the fire to go out before retiring. So the damper is open all night and, more important, it may accidentally be left open the following day or days.

Our investigation found two types of fireplace covering on the market in Rochester. The first is an aluminum "Hearth Cover," manufactured locally. This rectangular sheet of metal has spring clips which fit under the lintel of your fireplace and hold it tight against the opening. Insulating material along all four edges provides an air seal.

When you are not using it, the "Hearth Cover" is removed from the fireplace and stored elsewhere. A standard size "Hearth Cover" will fit a fireplace opening up to 32" high and 36" wide. Covers for larger openings are available on order. The cover has a matte black finish which can be decorated with your monogram or whatever design you choose.

A more permanent fireplace covering is the glass fire screen. This is a brass frame with glass doors which is installed by means of a clamp-on bar in your fireplace opening. Once it is installed the doors are opened when a fire is lighted and may be left open as it burns. There are two styles of glass doors

available and the brass may be ordered in three finishes: brass, black brass and antiqued brass. The screen is also available with an optional metal fire screen for safety when the doors are open. Besides the benefits of reduced heat loss and safety from flying sparks, a glass fire screen also often alleviates the problem of a smoking fireplace. Smoking is usually caused by the fireplace opening being too large in proportion to the flue opening. Once the glass fire screen is installed, its frame cuts down the size of the opening, bringing it into balance with the size of the flue opening. Glass fire screens are available to fit a fireplace up to 48 1/2" x 32". An optional "riser" is available which, when added to the base of the screen, increases the size opening it will cover to 48 1/2" x 34".

RG&E does not sell or install a fireplace opening of any kind. For more information on where to get the "Hearth Cover" or glass fireplace screen, fill out and return the coupon below.

Recipe of the Week

Individual barbecued meat loaves...
Temperature 350°F — Time: 30 - 45 minutes

TANGY LOGS

1 1/2 pounds ground beef
1/2 pound ground pork
1/2 cup bread crumbs
1/2 cup milk

1 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 tablespoons diced onion

1. Combine beef, pork, bread crumbs, milk, salt and onion; mix thoroughly.

2. Shape into 6 oblong loaves and place in a shallow baking dish.

3. Mix together all other ingredients for sauce; pour over meat loaves.

4. Bake in preheated oven.

Suggested menu —

Baked Potatoes
Relish Tray
Ice Cream

Sauce:

1/2 cup tomato catsup
1/4 cup vinegar
1 tablespoon Worcestershire Sauce
1/2 - 1 teaspoon chili powder

1 1/2 tablespoons diced onion

Buttered Peas
Hot Rolls
Cookies

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO:

Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric.

89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649

I would like more information on the following items:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____