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Customers' Energy-Saving Ideas

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Customers have sent some helpful energy-saving ideas and posed some interesting questions which I would like to share with you.

1. Some of you who have an older house with a hot water heater system and cast iron radiators may find it difficult to shut off the heat supply to unused rooms if the valves are corroded and won't turn. For short periods of time you can cover the radiator with a throw rug or a blanket to reduce the amount of heat it gives off.

2. A great deal of heat can escape from your house through an attached garage. If you plan to reinsulate your house you should consider insulating the side walls of the garage as well. In the same vein, remember to close the garage doors whenever you leave the house. You will notice comfort improvement in adjacent rooms when this loss of heat is reduced.

3. Consider using a pressure cooker to prepare your meals. You will save energy because food cooks much more quickly than in conventional pans. There are side benefits, too. You

will use less liquid for vegetables so they will lose fewer vitamins to the cooking water. And you can cook the less tender, less expensive cuts of meat by using this method. Be sure to follow the directions and use it properly.

4. I have been asked if RG&E recommends putting a timer on a water heater to turn it off for several hours daily to save the energy used to keep the water warm. I have learned that this wouldn't be worthwhile or practical for an eight-hour period because the savings would be so minute that the possible inconvenience would outweigh the savings. However, when you go away on vacation, then the savings realized from turning off the water heater would make it worthwhile. You can place the water heater control on the "pilot" setting of a gas water heater which leaves the pilot on but keeps the main burner off. If you can relight the pilot, you can set the water heater control to "off" and turn both pilot and main burner off.

If you have energy-saving ideas you would like to share with others, I would be happy to receive them.

From the Home Service Department Baking Problems? Read On . . .

Are your cakes and cookies sometimes too brown or unevenly brown on the bottom? Are your underneath pie crusts too pale and underdone? You may be using the wrong type of pan or cookie sheet.

If you have noticed too much browning on the under side, chances are your cookie sheets or cake pans are old tin, darkened from years of use. Dark tin absorbs the heat, like a dark car on a hot day, and does not conduct it evenly. If the cookie sheet has sides, browning becomes more uneven. For better results, shiny aluminum utensils are recommended. Aluminum spreads the heat uniformly and reflects it for a delicate, not dark brown result. It also gives cakes a more even volume and better texture. You can check to make sure your bakeware is aluminum with a household magnet. The magnet will not cling to aluminum.

Uneven browning in cookies may also be caused by using too large a cookie sheet, aluminum or otherwise. This traps the heat under the sheet and prevents the heated air from moving freely. Use two smaller sheets and leave enough clearance for good heat circulation.

On the other hand, for golden browning of freshly prepared pies, anodized aluminum or glass pie pans

are desirable. Shiny pie pans reflect the heat and result in a pale, underdone bottom crust. When baking pies (or meats and casseroles) in glass, follow recipe instructions for temperature of oven. However, when baking cakes or bread products, always lower the temperature 25°F. from what is called for in the recipe. Glass absorbs the heat and bakes faster. Cakes and breads baked in glass will be too brown and have a coarse texture with tunnels if the temperature is not lowered.

Frozen pies are another story. They may have soggy, underdone crusts if package directions are not followed. Manufacturers of frozen pies usually recommend baking the pie on an aluminum cookie sheet. The shiny aluminum foil pans used for pies reflect the heat and prevent browning, as you have learned. This situation is corrected by the cookie sheet, which helps to conduct heat to the bottom crust for browning.

In summary, remember to use reflective and even-heating pans—shiny aluminum—for cookies, cakes and bread products. Use heat absorbent pans—glass, dark pan, or anodized aluminum—for pies. You'll be amazed at the difference!

Insulating your home: Part 5 Storm windows and doors

When you think about insulating your home, don't forget the windows and doors. Glass makes up a significant percentage of your total wall area. When we talk about keeping heat inside your home in the winter and outside in the summer (known to the professionals as restricting heat loss or heat gain) we are talking about the entire exterior wall area of your house. If one third of your wall area is windows, and these are not insulated with storm windows or double or

triple glass, your home's resistance to heat flow is that much less, even when you have fully insulated walls.

Here's how storm windows and insulated glass work. The second pane of glass and the air space between the panes provide a good barrier to heat transfer. The greater the width of the air space, up to 5/8", the more resistant your windows will be to heat flow. If you add a third pane of glass, as in the triple glazed windows on

the market today, or add a storm window to a double glass window, you further decrease the heat loss of the window.

In the heating and cooling industry, heat loss and heat gain are expressed in BTU's per hour. (A BTU is a unit of measure for heat.) Here are the heat losses per square foot for different kinds of windows; (the temperature difference is the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperature.)

Window	heat loss, BTU/hr/sq. ft./degree temp. diff.
single glass	113
single glass with storm window	56
double glass (1/4" air space)	65
double glass (1/2" air space)	58
double glass (1/4" air space) with storm window	25

If you rent your place, or if you don't feel like making the investment in storm windows, you can make temporary ones out of 4-mil thick clear plastic. Cut it to fit across your windows and tape or tack it to the frame all around. Masking tape works well and shouldn't pull the paint off. These temporary storm sashes are almost as effective as glass ones, although not as durable. Remember that if the plastic gets torn even a little bit, the effectiveness is reduced.

Storm doors are important, too, for the same reasons. A wooden door or a hollow one, provides less resistance to heat flow than a door and a storm door together.

Storm windows and doors should be kept closed for the greatest benefit. If you have air conditioning, keep them closed during hot weather, too. When you need to freshen the air in your home, open them for half an hour or so, and don't forget to close them again.

This month at RG&E's Consumer Information Center, you can learn a lot about insulating your home. Come in and see what a difference proper insulation makes. The Center is located on the Main Floor of 89 East Avenue and is open during all office hours.



Storm windows are insulation, too.

Home Service To Demonstrate Use and Care of Dryer

A demonstration on the proper Use and Care of the Dryer will be presented by an RG&E Home Economist next Thursday, March 21 in the Home Service Auditorium at 89 East Avenue. The demonstration will be held at 1 PM and will be repeated at 7:30 PM.

If you are the owner of a new dryer and need help in its operation, or if you never really did learn everything about using that dryer you have had for a year or two, this demonstration is meant for you. It will help you with specific problems you may be having and will tell you about the most efficient and economical operation of dryers in general.

If you would like to attend one of these demonstrations, please send in the coupon on this page, indicating what time is most convenient for you — 1 PM or 7:30 PM. Also, tell us what make and model dryer you have.

There will be parking for the evening demonstration only, in the RG&E lot on Lawn Street. Please bring your owner's manual to the demonstration.

Shakespeare Theatre Stages Coast-to-Coast Hit in Rochester

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," the hit play based on the best-selling novel of the same name, will open a three-week run at the Rochester Shakespeare Theatre at 8 p.m., Thursday, March 21. The Dale Wasserman play, based on the book by Ken Kesey, has had long runs in Boston, Chicago, New York and San Francisco.

The tragic-comedy is set in the ward of a mental hospital, ruled over by Big Nurse Ratched. The free-wheeling Randle McMurphy, feigning insanity to escape the penal farm, is admitted to the ward and immediately challenges Big Nurse's power.

Single tickets for "Cuckoo's Nest" are \$5.50, \$5.00 and \$4.50. Student and senior citizen tickets, available for all performances, are \$2. Special rates for groups of 20 or more are also available. For further information and reservations, call the RST box office at 546-2680.

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