

ADVERTISEMENT: This entire page is a paid advertisement

RG&E consumer news

July 9, 1975



Consider Energy-Efficiency In Choosing A Room Air Conditioner

By Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

Efficient use of electricity should be an important consideration in the purchase of an air conditioner. Although air conditioners are used during only a few months a year locally, they are high users of electricity during each hour of operation. Two air conditioners with the same cooling capacity (BTUs) may differ substantially in their wattage and in the efficiency of their use of electricity.

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) has determined the energy efficiency ratios (EER) of the various brands and models of air conditioners, and has made the information available.

A unit's EER is computed by dividing its BTU rating by its wattage. This ratio tells you how much cooling capacity you will get per watt of energy input. The higher the EER, the more efficient the unit is in its use of electricity. You will need to know the wattage to calculate the operating costs.

For example: a 12,000 BTU unit which uses 1,900 watts has an EER of 6.3. Another 12,000 BTU unit which uses 1,350 watts has an EER of 8.8. The second unit is more efficient. It uses 29 per cent less electricity and so costs less to operate.

It is more costly to build an energy-efficient air conditioner, so the energy-efficient one costs more to buy. Dealers should have information about EER and operating costs as well as the selling prices for the various units. Ask for these figures. With access to this information you will have the choice of spending less money to purchase an air conditioner which will cost more to operate, or spending more initially in order to conserve electricity and prevent an undesirable addition to your electric bill.

RG&E's "Watt Watcher's Handbook" has instructions for calculating operating costs. You may obtain one by filling in and sending in the coupon below.

If you have questions, call RG&E's Appliance Department at 546-2700, Extension 2428.

Why Do We Pay What We Pay for Electricity and Gas?

When you got up this morning chances are that RG&E helped start your day... waking you with an electric alarm clock, providing you with hot water for your shower, cool orange juice, hot coffee and toast. Throughout the day you call on RG&E to make your life more comfortable, safe and efficient. With a flip of a switch you have at your command a personal share of more than 531 million dollars invested in our system and the combined resources of 2700 trained employees.

For years most of us took this magic for granted but recently we have discovered it is costing more and more to enjoy. In fact, on May 12, 1975 our Company asked the Public Service Commission for permission to increase electric and gas rates 18.7% for electric, and 8.5% for gas. Which of course has led customers to ask, "Why Do We Pay What We Pay for Electricity and Gas?"

There is a reason why you are paying more for just about everything you need in inflation.

The cost of gas and electricity has also gone up but so have all forms of energy. We did have a national policy of having low cost energy in the U.S. That has changed.

But what about the prices we have to pay for the items we need to satisfy our needs? From line trucks to air compressors, from steel conduit to a lineman's tool set, our costs have gone sky-high, too.

Cheap, plentiful energy is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. As rising costs continue and inflation races along, energy costs will continue to rise also.

We have prepared a factual and detailed folder describing all the reasons why we must ask for permission to raise our gas and electric rates.

You should have received one at home. If you didn't for some reason or have misplaced it and would like another, please use the coupon at the bottom of the page and we will see that you receive one.

Protect yourself and your family with a Ground-fault Interrupter Help Prevent Electrical Accidents

The ground-fault interrupter (GFI) is a small device designed to stop electric current flow before

it can harm you. Acquaint yourself with the different types of GFIs on display at the RG&E Consumer In-

formation Center in the Main Office, until July 15.

With an increase in electrical usage, the potential of personal injury also increases. Appliances can become faulty; young and old alike don't always observe safety practices around electrical equipment, and hazardous conditions can arise quickly in areas such as pools, basements, construction sites, in lawn work, and so forth when there is a damp or wet condition. The danger arises when the human body becomes an actual part of the circuit or current path as it flows back into the system source.

This is when the GFI comes into play. It detects the dangerous situation (an imbalance in the circuit) and immediately stops current flow before you are hurt. You may feel a slight shock, nothing more.

Guard your family and yourself against electrical accidents with GFI protection. Take time to stop in the Main Office and see the GFIs for yourself soon — it's too important to miss.

The LINK New Environmental Newspaper

The Link is a comprehensive monthly newspaper published by the Center for Environmental Information. The Link reports on upcoming environmental events and carries related local, state and national news. The annual subscription rate is \$3 and is available from the Center at Room 110, 33 South Washington Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14608.

The center is a non-profit organization founded last year to coordinate environmental information and educate residents of the Rochester/Finger Lakes/Genesee Valley Region. It has a telephone information service available at 716-546-3796 to answer questions related to the environment.



A representative from RG&E's Residential Department displays a ground-fault interrupter to customer.

Electrical Safety for Children

Children are never too young to learn about electrical safety. If this education is begun at home at an early age, many of the tragedies we too often read about can be averted in our own families. The Home Service Department offers the following guidelines for parents to pass on to their children:

1. When you are wet or in the bathtub, never touch light switches or plug in and/or use an electric appliance such as a hair dryer, electric shaver, or even a telephone. If the appliance or light switch is defective, escaping current will try to travel through your body to the ground.
2. Never poke any metal object or your finger into an electrical outlet, as you can easily come into contact with the live circuit. If very small children are at home, protect them by installing safety caps in the outlets or by replacing the outlet with the "safety type" outlet.
3. When playing outdoors, avoid fenced-in areas marked, "Danger, High Voltage." Electrical equipment inside these areas can be very dangerous. Never climb utility poles for the same reasons they carry high tension wires that could be lethal if touched. Some homes have an un-

derground service with a transformer located in a metal box on a concrete pad on the property. These boxes are locked and should not be tampered with by unauthorized persons.

4. In an electrical storm, leave the swimming pool or water at the beach immediately. If lightning were to strike the water, electric current would travel through your body and electrocute you. Go to a shelter, never a tree, because lightning also has a tendency to strike trees and could pass from the tree to your body.

In the event of an electrical fire or any other kind of fire, families should have escape procedures. Plan practice fire drills so everyone — children and parents — knows what to do and what exits to take to get safely out of the house.

Remember, it's never too soon to introduce your children to safe electrical procedures. Begin when they are young and give occasional "refresher courses" as they grow older to ensure a safer, happier home.

Visit
BROOKWOOD
10 AM to 4 PM
Sundays
through
Thursdays

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ 27
Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649
546-2700

I would like more information on the following items:

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Town _____ Zip Code _____