

RG&E consumer news



Consider Energy-Efficiency in Choosing a Room Air Conditioner

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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. Two air conditioners with the same cooling capacity (BTU's) 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 estimate the operating costs.

For example, a 12,000 BTU unit which uses 1,900

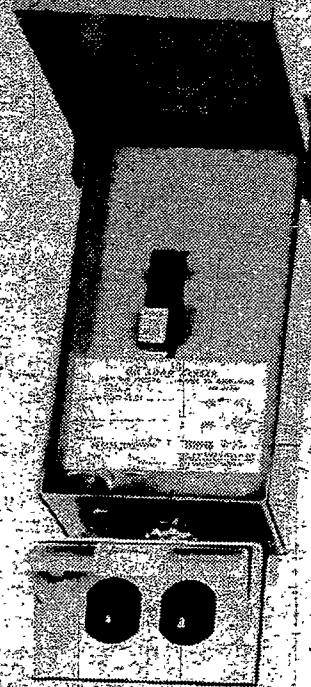
watts has an EER of 6.3. Another 12,000 BTU unit which uses 1,350 watts has an EER of 8.9. The second unit is more efficient. It uses 29% less electricity and so costs less to operate.

It is more costly to build an energy-efficient air conditioner, so it 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 this information you will have the choice of spending less money to purchase an air conditioner which will cost more to operate, or investing more initially in order to conserve electricity and prevent an undesirable addition to your electric bill.

RG&E's "Watt Watchers Handbook" has instructions for estimating 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.

For Safety Sake Indoors and 'Out ... The Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter



One of the Ground Fault interrupter models on display.

The ground fault interrupter (GFI) could save your life. It can prevent a deadly shock caused by a faulty appliance or electrical system before it reaches you or a member of your family.

The GFI is an amazing device that can sense an imbalance in electrical current, which is the result of a "ground fault". It constantly monitors the amount of electrical current flowing to and from various appliances on a circuit. If there is a difference greater than 5 milliamperes, the GFI will detect this imbalance and instantly a switch is triggered inside the GFI to stop the flow of electricity (in less time than a heart-beat) before it reaches you.

GFI's are required in many areas of new construction

Ground fault interrupters are so essential to electrical safety, especially outdoors, that the National Electrical Code has made them mandatory in many areas of new construction or wiring. They originally required GFI's on all outdoor receptacles around a permanently installed swimming pool, and all electrical equipment used with storable swimming pools. They now require GFI's on all outdoor receptacles, regardless of location. As of January 1975, GFI's are necessary on all new bathroom outlets as well.

RG&E's Consumer Information Center has 3 types of ground fault interrupters on display. Visit us soon on the main floor at 89 East Avenue and get your copy of our GFI booklet the "Shock Stopper." The Center is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Energy Efficient Philco Refrigerator-Freezer on Display

Shop and compare before you buy. It's good advice. But it becomes even more important when purchasing a new refrigerator-freezer.

If your present refrigerator is ready to be replaced, visit RG&E's main floor display to compare, not only the initial cost but also the difference in cost of operation of similar size refrigerator-freezers.

For instance, on display is Philco's 16-cu. ft. partially-automatic refrigerator-freezer that is rated by Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers as consuming 54 kWh of electricity per month. (As compared with some 16-cu. ft. total frost-free models that consume up to 149 kWh per month.) The refrigerator section is frost-free, however the top freezer section must be manually defrosted 3-4 times a year. But this could save you approximately 100 kWh per month (or more) compared with many total frost free 16-cu. ft. models. Based on current electric rates this could amount to an approximate savings of \$2.90 per month, \$35.00 annually and \$520.00 over an average 15 year life of the refrigerator-freezer.

Come in and visit our energy efficient refrigerator-freezer display anytime between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

How to Treat Summer Stains

Stains really are with us at all times of the year. During warm summer months the following stains appear most often. So be sure to treat them immediately for easiest removal.

Catsup should be rinsed with cold water. Rub glycerine into stains; let stand 1/2 hour. Rub liquid detergent into stain and rinse.

Grass should be treated with rubbing alcohol. Then rub with warm detergent solution. If yellow stain remains, treat with 1 part hydrogen peroxide to 3 parts water.

Mildew is very difficult to remove, as plant grows into fabric and weakens it. For white cotton or linens, launder in hot water and chlorine bleach. Use a color-fabric safe bleach on other fabrics. If stain persists, squeeze lemon juice on stain, cover with salt and dry in sun.

Mustard should be treated immediately, because an old stain is difficult to remove. Scrape off excess, rub glycerine into stain; then rub in liquid detergent and wash in as hot water as is safe for fabric. If stain remains, use diluted chlorine or color-fabric safe bleach, depending on fabric.

**Dilute alcohol with 2 parts water for use on acetate and rayon. On colored fabrics tests first on an inside seam for colorfastness of dyes.

"Greater Years" Program for Mature Citizens June 12-13

The "Greater Years" is a two-day program for people in or near retirement. The program begins Saturday, June 12 from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. and from noon to 6 P.M. Sunday, June 13 at the Dome Arena, Monroe County Fairgrounds on East Henrietta Road.

This event sponsored by the Webster Kiwanis and Webster Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. is intended to bring together the many businesses, agencies and services that are available to people around retirement age.

Trailways will provide free roundtrip bus service each day from Midtown Plaza to and from the Dome Arena between 1 P.M. and 6 P.M. Buses will leave Midtown Plaza every hour starting at 1 P.M. and depart from the Dome Arena on the half hour ending service at 6:30 P.M.

RG&E will be among 100 exhibitors offering a variety of literature. For example tips on energy conservation and appliance buying guides.

In addition, a series of Seminars will be held at the following times:

Financial & Legal Planning - Saturday, 11 A.M., Sunday, 1 P.M.
Health Planning - Saturday, 2 P.M., Sunday, 3 P.M.

Leisure Time Planning - Saturday, 5 P.M., Sunday, 5 P.M.

The "Greater Years" program is open to the public. There is no charge for admission or services offered.

"Social Servings" Cookbook Will Help Send a Child to Camp

The Monroe County Department of Social Services has developed a cookbook entitled "Social Servings". The 160 page book is a compilation of over 300 international recipes that were contributed by people from all over the Rochester Area. Proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will be used to send children in protective care to a summer camp.

To get your copy of "Social Servings" and help some children enjoy the fun of a summer camp, send \$2.50 plus 50c for postage to:

Department of Social Services
Information Office
Room 658
111 Westfall Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

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Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649
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