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RG&E consumer news



Attic Fan Use

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Q. I am confused by conflicting information on the cooling effect and the potential energy savings from having an attic fan. What does RG&E say?

A. The confusion may result from the fact that some articles discuss the energy conservation aspect and others cover the comfort aspect of attic fan use. Adding to the uncertainty is the fact that different climates have different effects on both these aspects.

An attic fan reduces the ceiling temperature of the rooms below the attic and thereby lessens the amount of heat radiating from the ceiling. This is important because without an attic fan you could feel uncomfortably warm in a 75° room if the ceiling temperature was considerably higher. If you want your house more comfortable, but do not want to go the expense of installing air conditioning or have the additional operating cost, then adding an attic fan is a good compromise. It will remove much of the intense attic heat and enable your house to stay relatively comfortable. So the use of an attic fan will increase comfort, but what about energy savings?

A power attic fan is rated at approximately 300-350 watts, and it moves air through the attic space under all conditions. Gravity ventilation does not use any electrical energy, but its effectiveness depends largely on the direction and velocity of the wind. One type of gravity ventilation, the continuous ridge vent, does approach the effectiveness of the power attic fan, but its use is not widespread in the Rochester area.

If you are considering using an attic fan together with air conditioning, the possibility for energy savings depends on a number of variables. If you have a well insulated attic and you use an air conditioner and an attic fan together you will be more comfortable, but probably will not save energy. However, you could save energy if you operate the fan instead of your air conditioner. Rochester's summer nights are very cool compared to those in the southern United States. On these nights you could save some energy by not running the air conditioning but using the attic fan to reduce the temperature difference between the ceiling and the rest of the room.

RG&E's Residential Department personnel

indicate that an attic fan would provide additional comfort, and under some conditions could provide energy savings even though you have a central air conditioning system.

Questions? Fill out and send in the coupon below.

RG&E's Brookwood Center Celebrates Teen Years

RG&E's Brookwood Science Information Center celebrates its tenth year of operation. Located adjacent to the Ginna nuclear power plant at Ontario in Wayne County, the Brookwood Center was established to provide the visiting public with information about energy in general and nuclear power in particular. From the many letters of appreciation we have received it is apparent that Brookwood has proved a valuable addition to the existing educational facilities in the area.

Since opening in 1966, about 450,000 people from all 50 states and 90 foreign countries have visited the Center and viewed displays that detail the workings of nuclear power electric generation. Averaging more than 400 visitors a week in 1975, the Brookwood Center offers free admission for the public and will accommodate schools and groups for slide presentations and films by appointment.

The Brookwood Science Information Center is located at 2640 Lake Road in Ontario and is open to the public Sunday through Thursday 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Group sessions may be arranged during the evenings, too, by calling the Corporate Communications Department at RG&E, 546-2700, extension 2225.

Energy-Efficient Dishwashers On Display

Did you know that many of the dishwashers now displayed on the main floor of RG&E's 89 East Avenue office have a special feature to help you conserve energy?

That's right; several General Electric and Kitchen Aid dishwashers have an energy saving option — a switch which automatically turns off the

On Display at Our Consumer Information Center

The Ground Fault Interrupter — It Could Save Your Life



For safety's sake indoors and out, have a ground fault interrupter installed.

We call it the "shock stopper" and that's exactly what it does. It can prevent painful or fatal electric shock from a faulty appliance or electrical system before it can harm you or a member of your family.

Most electrical shocks are the result of ground faults. A ground fault occurs when current supplied to a circuit tries to return to its source through the ground rather than the return wire. You can get a shock from a defective electrical equipment, or electrical equipment or when you come in contact with a live wire and you become the path for the current to travel to the ground.

The ground fault interrupter (GFI) can save your life. It can be installed on an entire circuit or into a particular outlet, such as in a bathroom. It constantly monitors the amount of electrical current flowing to and from various appliances. If any imbalance in current greater than 5 milliamperes should occur, the GFI instantly detects it and triggers a switch shutting off the current immediately.

Although your house has fuses or circuit breakers, they are not of any help. Here's why. More than 15 amperes of current are needed to blow a 15 amp fuse or trip a 15 amp circuit breaker. In contrast, it only takes .01 to .03 amperes [10 to 30 milliamperes—much less than the amount of current flowing through a bulb in a two-cell flashlight] to produce muscular contractions so severe that a healthy adult cannot let go of the appliance or wire.

See various models of the ground fault interrupter at RG&E's Consumer Information Center, on the main floor at 89 East Avenue. We're open Mondays through Fridays from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Pick up a complimentary copy of our booklet, the "Shock Stopper" to learn more about this life-saving device.

Seneca Park Zoo Photo Contest Deadline July 31

The Seneca Park Zoo Society is sponsoring a photo contest for amateur photographers of all ages. Contest Rules

All photos must be taken on the grounds of the Seneca Park Zoo between January 1, 1976 and July 31, 1976. Entry fee of \$1.00 for every picture submitted. All photographs submitted must be unmounted. Black and white and color prints accepted only in sizes 4"x5", 5"x7" or 8"x10".

Your name, address, zip code, and telephone number must be printed in pencil on the back of each photograph. Model release, if needed, must be submitted upon request. All winning photographs become the property of the Seneca Zoo Society and may be used for future promotional programs. The original negative must be available upon request. Slides will not be accepted because of the expense involved to obtain prints for possible promotional programs.

Rolling Acres Camp Sites . . . 160 Acres of Fun In Pike, N.Y.

Rolling Acres Camping and Golf Course in Pike, N.Y. is a planned recreation resort area located among the beautifully sloping, wooded hillsides of Wyoming County.

Camping facilities include 60 wooded, clean campsites each equipped with picnic table and electricity. Modern toilet facilities are centrally located to all campsites.

Rolling Acres offers many recreational activities to campers or weekend picnickers; from its sprawling 9 hole golf course to swimming, volleyball, softball and badminton. Daily, weekly and seasonal camp rates are available.

Rolling Acres is located about 60 miles south from Rochester, N.Y., in the heart of the historic Genesee Valley.

For more information write, call or write: Mr. Carl Moore Rolling Acres Camping and Golf Course DeWitt Road Pike, New York (716) 567-8557

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-40 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