

# RG&E consumer news

January 8, 1977



## Tips For Winter Vacationers

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According to RG&E's Customer Service Department, hundreds of customers go south for vacations each winter. If you are one of these individuals and you want to know how to set your furnace and appliances in your absence, I have some suggestions.

**Heating:** Turn your thermostat back to the lowest setting, preferably 55°. Do not turn the furnace off because in very cold weather water lines could freeze and burst, causing considerable damage. If you do decide to turn your heat off, be sure to drain your water lines and protect any items which could freeze. A failure of one of the furnace controls on a very cold day could also cause damage. To avoid this I have two suggestions:

1. Ask a neighbor to check your house temperature while you are away. The neighbor should check every day when the outside temperature is 20° or less, and every two days when it is above 20°.

2. Buy a special control which will turn a light on if the house temperature drops below a certain level. For example you first set the house thermostat back to 55°. Then you set the thermostat of the special control at 40°, attach a lamp to the control, and place the lamp in the window. If the house temperature drops below 40° the lamp will turn on. You will have to ask a neighbor to watch to see if the light turns on. This control and others similar to it can be purchased from a heating contractor, or from a hardware and heating supply store.

In either case you should give the neighbor instructions about who to call to make furnace repairs, if necessary.

**Appliances:** Set the control on a gas water heater to the "pilot" position.

You may shut off the water supply at the meter if your heating system permits.

Remove all perishable items from the refrigerator and set the control to the warmest setting.

Unplug small appliances, entertainment appliances and other appliances which will not be used. This is particularly true if you have

an "instant on" television set.

**Billing:** You can call the RG&E at 546-1111 to ask that your meter not be read and that you not receive a bill until you return. Be sure to notify the Company when you do return. Or if you will be away for an extended period of time you can ask to have your RG&E bill forwarded to your winter address.

Do not forget to have delivery of your newspapers stopped and your mail held at the Post Office until you return. This kind of advance planning can give you peace of mind while you are away.

## "Electricity . . . And Our Energy Future" Book Available

Did you know that in 1975 the average home used four times as much electricity as in 1950? And that our population is projected to increase by 25,000,000 by 1985? These are some of the facts found in "Electricity . . . And Our Energy Future." It is an instructional guide in comic book format that describes the various methods by which electricity is generated, how it gets to your home and why it is costing more. It provides tips on electrical safety and shows why nuclear is the most important potential source to meet the energy requirements by 1985. It also explains fuel supplies and alternate forms of energy like solar, geothermal and wind and why these sources are not expected to produce energy in significant volume before 1990.

This informative book is available at no charge or obligation. To get your copy, fill out and return the coupon on this page or call 546-2700, extension 2225.

## Visit Brookwood This Sunday

Looking for something interesting to do with your family? Something that everyone will find exciting and educational? Then we suggest that you consider visiting our Brookwood Science Information Center.

Graphic exhibits and animated displays explain the entire story of electricity from its basic generation to

## Now at the Consumer Information Center Insulation — One Way to Save Energy



"Do-it-yourselfers" can learn about installing insulation at our Consumer Center.

## Degree Days Explained

The effect of this bitter cold weather is showing up in your heating bills. The colder the weather the more energy your furnace uses to keep your house warm.

### Degree Days

This heating season has been considerably colder than last year's and also much colder than normal. RG&E keeps track of the weather conditions by using a "Degree Day" system which indicates the relative coldness of a period of time, such as a month compared with other months. The weather is a significant factor in determining whether this

month's heating bill should be higher or lower than that of last month or of last December, for example. Degree Days are figured by subtracting the mean temperature (the average of the high and low temperatures) from 65° - the temperature at which it is not normally necessary to heat your house. For example, if the day's high is 40° and the low is 10°, the mean is 25°, which when subtracted from 65° will give you 40 Degree Days for that day. The chart below shows actually how much colder the weather, as measured in Degree Days, has been.

Month	Degree Days*			
	Normal	1975	1976	% Difference
September	126	194	173	11% Warmer
October	398	365	538	47% Colder
November	735	525	879	67% Colder
December	1138	1146	1279	12% Colder
Year to Date	2397	2230	2869	29% Colder

\*These are the Degree Days in the actual calendar months. Your monthly bill probably will not correspond to the calendar month so it may include more or less Degree Days depending on the dates it covers.

Winter is here. And so far it's colder than normal which means your furnace has used more energy to keep your house warm. If your house is under-insulated, you will probably be overspending on fuel costs.

Adding insulation in the attic, basement, and to exposed walls can reduce your energy consumption significantly.

There are many types of insulation available today and if you're puzzled over which type is best for your home, visit RG&E's Consumer Information Center. Our Residential representatives will be available to assist you in choosing a type that is best for your home and budget.

If you plan to install it yourself, you can be advised on the ease of installation and the proper method. While you're there, pick up a complimentary copy of our booklet, "If You're Under-Insulated, You're Overspending on Fuel."

The Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 89 East Avenue.

## Loose Windows are Energy-Wasters

Loosely fitted windows are a major cause of excessive drafts in your home. And drafts are very costly — they waste some of the energy expended to heat or cool your home and result in much higher than necessary fuel bills.

When first installed, windows are usually tight-fitting. But as years go by, settling of the house occurs, creating cracks and seams around window casings.

The result? Air freely moves through these openings and considerably lowers your comfort level indoors. Outdoor noise is easily audible. In addition, dust and dirt filter in to create continuous cleaning problems. Check to see if this is your problem. If so, it's time to do something about it.

Many companies offer a variety of replacement windows. There are many styles and types of glass and window construction to choose from to suit your home and your pocket-book. Some special types of glass may even eliminate the need for certain storm windows and would be a worthwhile investment.

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: 1094

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 \_\_\_\_\_