

# RG&E AND consumer news

March 16, 1977



## From Watts To Dollars

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By following an easy three-step process you can convert an appliance's wattage to the dollar cost of using it.

An appliance's wattage rating determines how much electricity it uses at any one moment, but the electricity that you pay for is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh). To go from wattage to your cost (1) multiply the appliance's wattage by the number of hours you use it during the month. (2) Divide by 1,000 to get the number of kWh of use. (3) Multiply by the cost per kWh to get the total operating cost.

The chart below gives this information in average figures for some of the more common electrical ap-

pliances. If you do not wish to do your own calculations, you can get a general idea of an appliance's energy use with these average figures. The kWh figures in the chart already have been converted from watts using steps (1) and (2). As you can see, a low-wattage appliance that runs continually may use more energy than a high-wattage unit that you use occasionally.

RG&E is offering a booklet with energy-use information for 50 appliances. The "Watt Watchers Handbook" is available to you at no additional charge. Send in the coupon on this page to receive a copy.

### National Average Taken From EEI Study

Appliance	Average Wattage	Approx. kWh Per Month	*RG&E Av. Residential Mo. Cost (at 4¢/kWh)
Washing Machine	512	9	\$ .36
Coffeemaker	394	9	.36
Dishwasher	1,201	30	1.20
Frying Pan	1,196	16	.64
Range	12,207	98	3.92
Refrigerator-Freezer (14 cu. ft. Frostless)	615	152	6.08
**Water Heater (quick recovery)	4,474	401	16.04
***Color TV (tube set)	332	42	1.68

\*To figure out your own average cost see the Watt Watchers Handbook.  
\*\*Approximate average per person, per month, is \$4.00 to \$4.50.  
\*\*\*Based on approximately four hours daily—increased daily hours will increase cost. Furthermore, the new solid state sets have lower wattage ratings. (EEI Study - Edison Electric Institute Study)

Let's discuss basic terms:  
**Wattage** rates the instantaneous demand the appliance will place on your home's electrical load.  
**Kilowatt** is 1,000 watts of instantaneous demand.  
**Kilowatt-hour** is the amount of electricity consumed by an appliance rated at 1,000 watts during one hour.

## Spring Gardening Clinic

St. John Fisher College's Division of Continuing Education will sponsor the Third Annual Spring Gardening Know How on Saturday, March 19, beginning at 9:15 a.m. The all-day clinic will bring together professionals with expertise in everything from pruning trees and shrubs and fruit growing to organic vegetable gardening and lawn care.

There will be "how-to" demonstrations, including the proper way to can and freeze foods, flower

arranging, and starting an herb garden. Each person who registers will receive numerous gift certificates donated by local gardening stores.

Registration for the event will be on March 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. in Fisher's Kearney Auditorium. The registration fee is \$10 which will include a box lunch. For luncheon reservations, or further information, call the continuing education office at 586-4140, extension 365.

## Insulate Your Home And Save

Heating is the single greatest use of energy in your home. When you reduce the amount of energy used for heating, you will conserve energy and lower your fuel bills.

To accomplish this is by adding adequate insulation in your home. Insulation is

simply a material that is resistant to heat flow, and should be used wherever the flow of heat needs to be minimized.

Heat always moves from warmer to cooler areas, and it moves through solid objects such as walls and floors. This is called heat loss and refers

to the amount of heat that moves out of a home. Insulation slows down this heat loss. Thus by adding insulation in the attic, basement, and to exposed walls, you can make a significant reduction in your energy consumption.

There are many types of insulation available. RG&E's Consumer Information Center, located on the main floor at 89 East Avenue, is now featuring some of the different kinds of materials that can be used. Our Residential representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist you in choosing insulation that will best serve your specific needs.

Some forms of insulation can be installed easily and economically by the homeowner. A complimentary copy of our booklet, "If You're Under-insulated, You're Over-spending on Fuel," is available at your request. This booklet will advise do-it-yourselfers on the proper methods of installing various types of insulation materials.

Stop in or send for a copy today, and see how you can reduce the amount of fuel used in your home.



See insulation display at RG&E's Consumer Information Center.

### Warmer Weather Can Bring Mildew Problems

As the snow melts and the weather warms up, some people may be plagued with excessive dampness in their basements. This condition could cause mildew to grow on surfaces such as textiles, leathers, wood and paper.

Mildew is a fungus that forms from spores of mold present in the air. Spores thrive in areas that are warm and humid, poorly ventilated and lighted. Mildew can cause stains, discoloration and often produces a musty odor.

The growth of mildew can be discouraged by keeping the home clean, well ventilated and dry; and by removing grease and soil from items in the home. It can also be of help to hang clothes loosely in a closet as this will allow for better air circulation.

Place dehumidifiers in areas where moisture condensation is a serious problem. Chemical moisture absorbers for use in clothes closets, clothing trunks or chests, musty cellars, etc., can be purchased from most drug stores or hardware stores. Take care to read directions carefully, however, as these chemicals may be used in various ways. Some are safe for fabrics, some are not. Also be aware of mildew-resistant fabrics such as Acrilan, Dacron, Dynell, Nylon and Orlon.

Once mildew has grown, various commercial items may be purchased to kill it such as fungicidal or germicidal sprays. Simple washing and using a chlorine bleach may remove the stains but bleach will not kill the spores. Household ammonia will kill fungi but should never be mixed with chlorine

bleach because poisonous fumes can result.

When using a household cleaning agent, be sure to keep out of reach of children at all times. And, in the case of mildew, attack the problem as soon as possible.

### Degree Days Measure Weather

RG&E keeps track of the weather conditions by using a "Degree Day" system which indicates the relative coldness of a period of time.

Degree Days are figured by subtracting the mean temperature (which is the average of the high and low temperatures) from 65°. 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.

This Degree Day chart shows how the season continues to be considerably colder than last year, and also much colder than normal.

Month	Degree Days*			% Difference From Last Year
	Normal	1975-76	1976-77	
September	126	194	173	11% Warmer
October	398	365	538	47% Colder
November	735	525	879	67% Colder
December	1138	1146	1279	12% Colder
January	1271	1395	1524	9% Colder
February	1126	914	1103	21% Colder
March 1-8	254	220	208	5% Warmer
Season to Date	5083	4777	5742	20% 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.

FILE OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-47

Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric  
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649  
546-2700

I would like more information on the following items:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_