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# RG&E consumer news

November 9, 1977



## Reduce Thermostat: Save On Heating Bill

By Anne S. Fenstermacher  
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

**Q. You have said it is advisable to turn back the thermostat a few degrees at night in order to conserve energy. How much would this actually reduce my heating bill?**

**A.** At night RG&E recommends turning back the thermostat 5° from the normal setting to 63° or less. Some people have found it desirable to set it back as much as 10°. However, in very cold weather it may not be advisable to turn it back as far as you would in less severe weather because of the long warm up period necessary to bring the house back to the daytime temperature. Lowering the thermostat for eight hours at night will save you approximately 1% of your heating bill per degree of setback. If you normally keep it at 68° and set it back 5° at night to 63° you will save approximately 5% on your heating bill. *I want to emphasize that it will be a saving on the heating portion of your bill, not 5% of your total RG&E bill.*

The dollar amount of the savings for the average house would be approximately \$17.00 per year. This may not seem like a substantial sum, but when added to other savings it becomes meaningful. The calculations are based on the heat loss, that is, the amount of heat that is lost from the house to the outside during the cold weather. The following assumptions were made: the house is heated with gas; it is an average size house with 1,600 square feet of heating area; and it is well insulated. Although a specific "average" house was chosen on which to make calculations, the same 1% saving per degree of setback would hold true for larger and smaller houses. The dollar amount of the savings would vary, however.

Clock thermostats are available which automatically set back the temperature and then reset themselves in the morning. The benefits of the clock thermostat are these: (1) The regularity of the setback means that the potential energy saving is greater than it would be if you had to

remember to turn it back manually; (2) The house would be warm when you awaken so you would be more comfortable. If you are considering buying an automatic clock thermostat you will want to weigh its cost against the comfort advantages and potential energy savings, and then make your decision.

**A mechanical clock thermostat is also available now. It allows you to set the number of hours you want to maintain lower temperatures during the day or night. It will bring the house up to the desired temperature after the prescribed number of hours, so again you will wake to a comfortable temperature. The mechanical clock thermostat allows great flexibility and lower cost.**

Thermostat setbacks will help conserve natural gas, a valuable resource. Efficient use of gas and all other forms of energy are important. If you have questions, fill out and send in the coupon on this page.

## Brookwood Open Sunday Through Thursday 10 am to 4 pm

Nestled in an apple orchard beside Lake Ontario, Brookwood Science Information Center overlooks RG&E's Ginna Nuclear Power Station. The Center was designed to show and explain through graphic exhibits, animated displays, movies, and talks by friendly and competent staff members, nuclear energy's place in our world.

Brookwood is located on Lake Road in Ontario, just 24 miles east of midtown Rochester. Drive out Lake Road to Ontario Center Road. Or take Route 104 to Ontario Center Road and north to Lake Road. There is no charge for admission or parking.

The entire family will find a visit to Brookwood Science Information Center interesting, exciting and educational. Plan a visit soon.

## Energy Conservation Ideas for the Home

For over twenty years this page has informed you on many consumer tips, innovations in the appliance industry and energy conservation ideas to help you live better and to make more efficient use of the energy you use in your home.

Here are some ideas to help you and your family control the energy you use.

### Clean Dirty Furnace Filters

When filters are dirty, furnace efficiency is reduced and energy wasted. Check the filter periodically to make sure it is clean.

### Don't Block

#### Registers, Radiators

Don't block registers, radiators or cold air return vents with furniture or rugs. Your heating system needs air

moving freely to carry the heat throughout your house.

### Keep Fireplace Damper Closed

The damper in your fireplace should be closed when you don't have a fire in it. Heat will escape up the chimney.

### Let the Sunshine In

During the day, let the sunshine in to help warm your house. At night close your curtains to keep the heat in.

### Check Your Water Heater

Check the thermostat on your water heater. Generally a "normal" setting (135°F-140°F) is suitable for most household needs.

### Check for leaks—dripping shower fixtures and leaky faucets can cost you money

If you must replace your water heater, be sure to look at the new energy efficient water heaters and get advice on proper sizing.

### Automatic Clock Thermostats Save Energy While You Sleep

If you conserve energy by lowering the thermostat when you go to sleep but don't like to awaken to a cool house, an automatic clock thermostat before you get up in the morning will raise the temperature setting at a preset time.

An automatic clock thermostat is a fuel saver because it can reduce your energy consumption at times when you don't need as much heat.

### As always, good insulation is in season. Insulation can help keep your heating and cooling costs down.

If you would like more energy conservation information, please fill out and return the coupon on this page.



Automatic clock thermostats help conserve energy.

## Protect Your Smooth Top Range

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) offers excellent advice on the proper use and care of many appliances; this includes caring for a smooth top cooking surface.

Appearance is the attraction to the smooth top ranges. The tough glass ceramic surface conceals the heating elements, giving a counter top look to your range. The surface gets hot during cooking, but when cool, usually just needs to be wiped off. Don't be misled however, the smooth top surface is not care free. To protect the range top, check the instruction book for the manufacturer's use and care directions.

Discoloration of the cooking area may be due to baked on soil from splatters or spillovers, mineral deposits from steam or marring of the surface by soft metal (aluminum, copper) utensils. AHAM recommends removing this soil as soon as the surface cools. Use a clean paper towel rather than a cloth or sponge which may contain residual soil or grease.

Avoid abrasive cleaners which may scratch and encourage discoloration as small amounts of food are

burned into the scratches. Use only the cleaning agents and cleaner - conditioners recommended by the manufacturer.

Be sure cooking utensils are clean and free of burrs or bumps. Keep salt, dirt, sand or other foreign substances from between the surface element and the utensils. Don't let utensils cook dry since this may damage or crack the ceramic surface.

The smooth top surface will be damaged if food is cooked directly on the hot surface, or if lightweight aluminum foil containers are used in direct contact with the surface burners.

Be sure to refer to your instruction book for further use and care tips.

### FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO:

CJ-54

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 \_\_\_\_\_