



Willie's World

A Publication of Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative

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November



Veteran's Day-
November 11, 2009



November 2009 Issue

ENERGY EFFICIENCY – PROPER INSULATION

One of simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs—and improve comfort—involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer to a cooler space. In winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements, and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls, and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature. During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

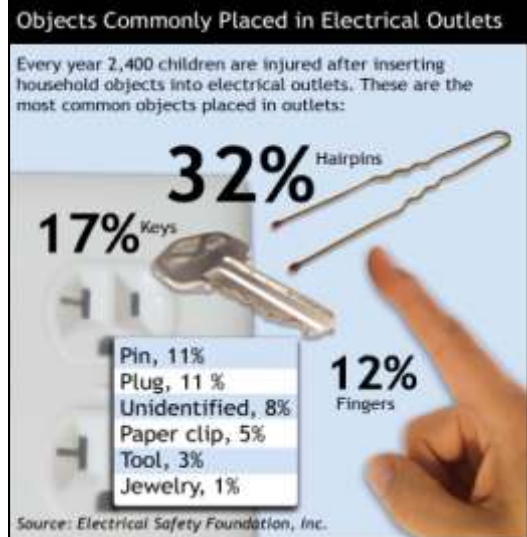
To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating system. In summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, though, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value, therefore, the higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness. When calculating the R-value of a multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

For more information, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov>.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



MONTHLY SAFETY TIP



Willie Wirehand wants you to remember...

“Never put any object other than the appropriate size plug into an outlet.”

PLOTTING OUT BIG ENERGY SAVINGS

As cold weather sets in, my thoughts turn to the garden I'll put in next spring. By the time the soil warms enough for the first seed, I'll likely have scribbled out half a dozen or more blueprints for what I'll plant and where. In the end, my garden will be better for it. Like most things, getting things right calls for a certain amount of planning—an understanding of how all the rows work together.

We at Arkansas Valley Electric often suggest ways that you can reduce your electric bills by making home energy efficiency improvements. Weatherization—sealing air leaks and installing the proper amount of insulation—*can* make a big difference. But just as randomly scattering seeds yields a lean harvest, energy efficiency upgrades done without knowledge of how your residence uses energy overall may not produce significant savings.

Spending a few hours on a home energy audit—a full assessment of how your house uses energy and where problems lie—will ensure that money designated for efficiency is spent wisely. For instance, investing in additional insulation has little impact on heating bills if a drafty front door conspires against it. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 32 percent and overall energy bills by more than \$350 per year. As you can see, the potential payback can be substantial.

Arkansas Valley Electric offers a professional energy audit conducted by a trained and certified energy advisor. Our advisors provide advice on energy conservation measures, and will systematically inspect your home, creating a checklist of potential weatherization improvements. You can also conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of places you have inspected and problems you find. Most trouble spots can be found in a few key areas. To request an energy audit or do-it-yourself checklist contact member services via [email](#) or call us at 1-800-468-2176.

Perhaps most important, middle- and low-income members can apply for help through the federal Weatherization Assistance Program. Households with incomes at or below 200 percent of the national poverty level are eligible. For a family of four, that's \$44,100. Program participants receive professional energy consultation; workers then arrive to make energy upgrades like insulating walls and roofs, sealing air leaks, and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems, all free of charge.

The program covers all of those under the set income limit, whether they own or rent, live in a single-family home, multi-family housing complex, or a mobile home. Those wishing to participate should contact the state agency managing the program locally at [Arkansas Department of Human Services](#), Division of County Operations, P.O. Box 1437, Slot# S-330, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437 or call (501) 682-8715.

Regardless, fashion a plan before tackling home energy efficiency improvements. When it comes to weatherization, a little work upfront goes a long way.



1-800-468-2176



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy

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CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD

Just two months into the program, the Co-op Connections card has saved Arkansas Valley Electric members \$12,541.32 on prescription medication!

SAFETY EQUIPMENT DONATED

Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative continually promotes the importance of electrical safety through various programs. What about traffic safety? Recently, the crossing guard equipment at Cook Elementary was in dire need of repair or replacement. That is when they contacted AVECC, their partner in education, for assistance.

AVECC purchased and donated brand new crossing guard vests and flags to ensure the safety of little ones as they arrive and depart from school each and every day.

The member services department even volunteered as honorary crossing guards on September 29th to help out and break-in the new equipment.

Holiday Closing

Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative offices in Ozark, Waldron, Pocola and Van Buren will be closed Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27, 2009, in observance of Thanksgiving.

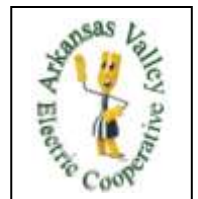
In case of emergency, Ozark, Van Buren and Pocola service area call 1-800-468-2176.

Waldron service area call 1-800-468-2152.

For automated outage reporting, call 1-866-TOAVECC or visit our website at www.avecc.com.

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We Welcome Your [Comments and suggestions](#).