



Farmers EC News



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER
MARK STUBBS

Insulate to feel great.

DO YOU EVER FEEL A CHILL, crank up the heat, hear the furnace kick on ... then feel no warmer? If so, your home might need better insulation.

The reason why is because heat flows from a warmer spot in the home to a cooler one until there is no longer a temperature difference. This means that in the winter, heat flows directly from heated living spaces in your homes to adjacent garages, unheated attics, and outdoors.

Properly insulating your home decreases this flow by providing resistance. Unless your home was specially constructed for energy efficiency, you can reduce your energy bills by adding more insulation.

Inspect and Evaluate

To determine whether you should add insulation, find out where your home does, does not, and should have insulation.

Check the walls, floors, and ceilings in unheated spaces such as the attic and garage. Structural elements are usually exposed in these areas, which makes it easy to see the type and thickness of surrounding insulation.

You can inspect exterior wall insulation through an electrical outlet. First turn off power to the outlet. Remove the cover and shine a flashlight into the gap around the outlet box. You should be able to see if there is insulation and possibly how thick it is. If needed, pull out a small amount of insulation to help determine its type.



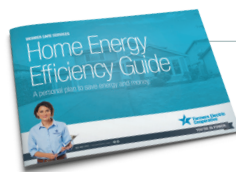
Use this method to check outlets in all rooms of your house. Just because you find insulation in one wall doesn't mean it's everywhere in the house.

Choose the Right Insulation

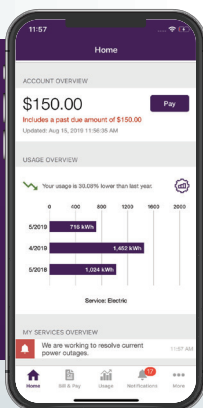
Once you've figured out the types of existing insulation and their thicknesses, consult the U.S. Department of Energy's online insulation fact sheet at energy.gov/energysaver/insulation to determine the corresponding R-values.

Once you find out the R-values of your existing insulation, you then can use the Home Energy Saver tool at hes.lbl.gov to determine how much insulation you need to add and where to add it for maximum energy efficiency.

Be sure to select the proper type of insulation for your home once you know where you'll be installing the new stuff and what R-value you want the new installation to achieve.



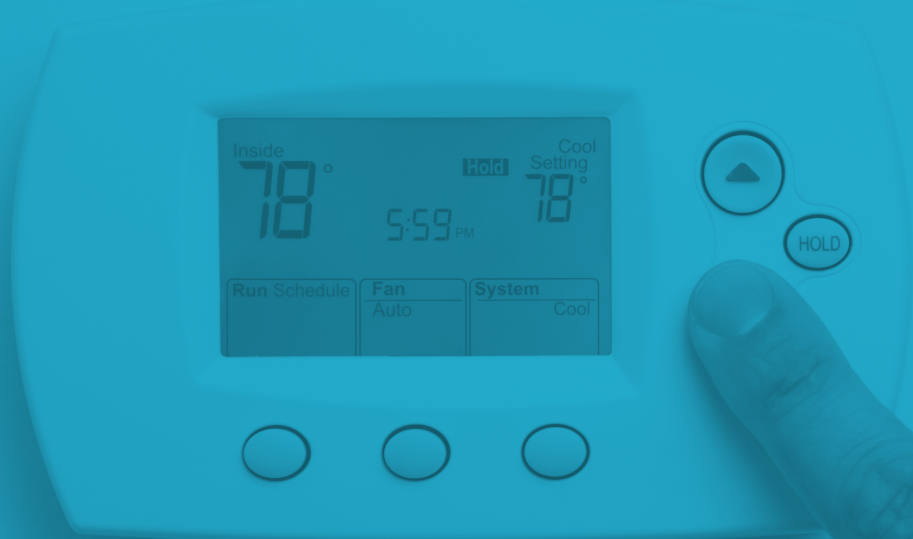
TAKE CHARGE. SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY BY REQUESTING OUR FREE HOME ENERGY GUIDE IN THE EFFICIENCY HUB AT: FarmersElectric.coop



POWER BEYOND PAYMENTS

More than just a payment portal, SmartHub is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing your energy usage securely from anywhere.

DOWNLOAD THE FREE SMARTHUB APP FOR APPLE OR ANDROID AT: FarmersElectric.coop.



EFFICIENCY HUB

FREE money-saving energy tips for you.

Small changes can add up to big savings.

With this long list of ideas from heating & cooling to lighting, you're sure to find plenty of ways to save energy around your house. You'll see quick, simple changes to start—plus larger investments that can make a big difference in the long run.

TAKE CHARGE AND START SAVING. DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE ENERGY TIPS PDF AT: FarmersElectric.coop.



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YOU'RE IN POWER.

How to purchase the right energy-efficient appliance.

SAY YOU GO SHOPPING for a new refrigerator, and you're on a budget. The best buy is the fridge with the lowest price, right? Not necessarily. If you buy the lowest-priced refrigerator, you might end up spending more than if you bought a more expensive one. How? The true cost of owning a home appliance has three components: the initial purchase price, costs of repairs and maintenance, and operation costs.

To figure out how much you'll spend over the lifetime of the appliance, you must look at all these factors. The appliance with the lowest initial purchase price—or even the one with the best reliability record— isn't necessarily the one that costs the least to operate over time.

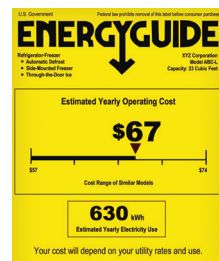
Refrigerators with the same capacity can vary in the amount of electricity they use. For one popular size and configuration, annual electricity consumption can vary by as much as 400 kilowatt-hours over the course of a year. Some may use as little as 400 kWh per year, and others may use up to 800 kWh. Based on national average electricity prices, that means the annual cost to operate this size and configuration of refrigerator can range from about \$30 to \$70.

A \$40 difference in annual operating costs might not sound like much, but remember, you will enjoy these savings year-after-year for the life of the appliance. However, you

only save the difference in purchase price once. As a result, you may save money in the long run by buying the more expensive and energy-efficient model.

You can learn about the energy efficiency of an appliance by reading the yellow-and-black EnergyGuide label. The Federal Trade Commission's Appliance Labeling Rule requires manufacturers to put these labels on refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, water heaters, furnaces, central and room air conditioners, heat pumps, and pool heaters.

Some appliances may also feature the ENERGY STAR logo, which means the appliance is significantly more energy efficient than the average model. To compare how updating appliances and making other changes around your home can affect your electric bill, visit energysavers.gov.



To be sure you're buying the right appliance:

- ▶ Read the EnergyGuide label.
- ▶ Compare the energy use of competing models.
- ▶ Estimate the difference in energy costs.
- ▶ Consider both purchase price and estimated energy use when deciding which to buy.



TAKE CHARGE. SAVE ON YOUR WINTER BILL AND REQUEST OUR FREE FARMERS EC HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY GUIDE IN THE EFFICIENCY HUB AT: FarmersElectric.coop



2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

We are currently accepting applications for the 2023 academic year.

Each year, Farmers EC awards thirty \$500 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors. The scholarships can be applied toward tuition, housing, meal plans, and/or books at a college, university, or technical school of the student's choice.

FOR APPLICATION AND DETAILS, GO TO: PoweringYouth.com AND SCROLL DOWN TO FARMERS EC YOUTH PROGRAMS. APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 14, 2023



10 Quick tips to avoid high winter bills.

Looking to lower your bills this winter?
Use these 10 tips to conserve energy.

- TIP 1** ▶ Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- TIP 2** ▶ Reduce wasted heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
- TIP 3** ▶ Turn off lights when not in use.
- TIP 4** ▶ Lower your water heater temperature. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- TIP 5** ▶ Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs, when you're away.
- TIP 6** ▶ Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
- TIP 7** ▶ Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
- TIP 8** ▶ Use power strips for multiple appliances and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
- TIP 9** ▶ Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
- TIP 10** ▶ Replace incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

TAKE CHARGE AND START SAVING. DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE ENERGY TIPS PDF AT:
FarmersElectric.coop.

ODDS & ENDS

Save The Dates

Thursday, Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
Tuesday, Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
Monday, Feb. 20 Presidents' Day

Safety Tip

Space Heaters

If used incorrectly, space heaters can pose fire and burn risks. To make sure you and your household stay safe, here's a few safety tips to follow when using your portable electric heater:

Read and follow the manufacturer's warnings and the operation and care guidelines before using a space heater.

Space heaters need space. Keep them at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials such as bedding, drapes, and furniture. Never use space heaters around unsupervised children or pets.

Always turn the heater off and unplug it when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Plug space heaters directly into an outlet. Do not use an extension cord.

Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund (THAF)

Farmers EC members who own their homes and are struggling with mortgage payments, home-related expenses and utility bills may be eligible for assistance with past-due and future payments from the Texas Homeowner Assistance Fund.

For more information and to apply, go to: TexasHomeownerAssistance.com