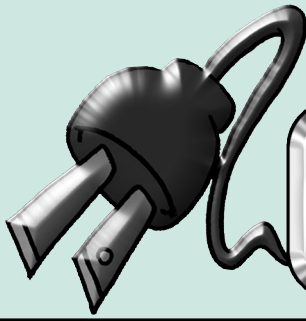


April
2005



Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839
Phone 620-397-5327

Install Compact Fluorescent Lights

Lighting accounts for almost one-fifth of all the electricity consumed in the United States. Common incandescent bulbs are very inefficient and waste 90% of their energy producing heat instead of light. This waste heat contributes to your cooling bill in the summer.

Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) are one solution. They use one-quarter to one-third the electricity of common incandescent bulbs, and screw into standard light sockets. CFLs can save 60% or more on lighting costs. They're available in a wide range of light output and in a pleasing range of colors.

A CFL will cost about 10 times the price of an incandescent bulb, but it will last about 10 times longer. This makes their long-term cost about the same. The savings on your electric bill will begin immediately.

Start by installing CFLs in the rooms you use the most, like the kitchen, bathroom, and living room. Choose CFLs with a much lower wattage than the incandescent bulbs they replace. For example, replace 100-watt incandescents with 26–30-watt CFLs to get

the same light output, replace 75-watt incandescents with 20–23-watt CFLs, and replace 60-watt incandescents with 15–20-watt CFLs. Using the higher wattage CFLs ensures that you won't get complaints about loss of light.

Standard CFLs are slightly larger than incandescent light bulbs and may not fit in all fixtures. The smallest CFLs, called sub-compact fluorescent, may work in these cases. Check your fixtures before purchasing CFLs.

If you're building a home, or plan to replace existing built-in fixtures, look for fixtures that are designed especially for CFLs. Recessed CFL fixtures—those that fit into the ceiling—are an especially good replacement for the recessed incandescent fixtures that allow large amounts of air to leak into the home.

One of the best sources of information about compact fluorescent lights is the web site www.BetterBulbsDirect.com. They have good information about the sizing and potential savings from CFLs, as well as an online store.

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The Lane-Scott Electric
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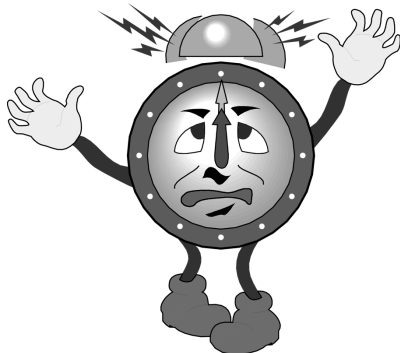
If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call Dighton, 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

After Hours & Weekends Call:
1-800-407-2217

24-Hour Electrician Emergency Service

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day. To request after-hours electrician service, call the following number:

1-800-407-2217



HEY!!!

Don't Forget to spring forward

Daylight Savings Time begins April 3. Remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour before you go to bed.

Keep Cool Indoors

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of the house. But a surprising amount of heat comes from *inside* your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing, and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights. The electricity used by standard bulbs produces 10% light and 90% heat. Compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate, too.
- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on your water heater.
- Use hot water sparingly—it produces heat and humidity. Wash clothes in cold water and dry outdoors when possible.
- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.
- If you plan to remodel your home, isolate your heater, washer, and dryer from the cooled part of your home. Or, ask a heating contractor if you can install a door between these appliances and the rest of the home.
- When replacing appliances, buy those with the ENERGY STAR® labels. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.
- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze.

If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool air through your home for almost no cost.

Using Fans to Cool Your Home

Fans can help you save a bundle on air conditioning costs if you know how to use them.

Circulating fans move air around your home to produce a wind chill effect. Scientists who study human comfort know that people feel about 4 degrees cooler in rapidly moving air than in still air. Ceiling fans, table fans, or floor fans are all used in this way to provide a feeling of comfort in occupied rooms during the hot part of the day. Since circulating fans cool people without actually lowering the temperature, run them only when you're in the room to appreciate their cooling breeze.

You can also use fans to flush your home with cool air at night. When the outdoor temperature is cooler than it is indoors, your exhaust fans will replace the hot air in your home with cool outdoor air.

Whole-house fans and window fans are used for this night time cooling. A whole house fan is permanently installed in the ceiling of your home. It pushes warm house air into the attic, where it exits through the attic vents. Cool outdoor air will then be drawn through open windows and doors. Window fans are also used to move hot air out of your home in the same way. Use one window fan to draw hot air out of your home, and another to bring cool air in from the shady side of your home. Experiment with different configurations of fans to see which works best.

Night time cooling with exhaust fans works best in dry climates where the night temperature dips into at least the low 70's. Run your exhaust fans as long as it's cooler outdoors than inside. In the morning, close your windows and drapes before the outdoors heats up to preserve your cooled indoor environment.

Source: Saturn Resource Management; www.residential-energy.com

How to Shop for Air Conditioners

The energy efficiency of air conditioners has improved a great deal in recent years. Replacing an old air conditioner with a modern, efficient one can reduce your air-conditioning cost by up to half.

The Energy Guide label is placed on all new air conditioners and must remain there, by law, until the unit is sold. It includes an EER (Energy Efficiency Rating) for portable room air conditioners, and a SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating) for central air conditioners.

The higher EER or SEER ratings indicate more efficient appliances. Older portable air conditioners may have an EER of only 5 or 6. If you replace it with a unit rated at EER 10, you will save up to half on your electrical cost for cooling.

If you live in a moderate cooling climate, select a room air conditioner with a minimum rating of EER 9. If you live in a hot climate, select a unit of EER 10 or higher. Central air conditioners should have a rating of at least SEER 12.

Do not buy air conditioning equipment that is over-sized. You'll get the best efficiency from a small air conditioner that runs full-time on the hottest day of the year. Over-sized equipment cycles on and off frequently, wasting energy and shortening the life of motors and compressors. It may be tempting to purchase a larger air conditioner because it's only slightly more expensive than a smaller unit, but you'll spend more on electricity in the long run.

Install your portable air conditioner in a window that doesn't receive direct sunlight during the heat of the day. This will allow it to deliver cooler air to the home. The north or east side of the home is often a good location. Better yet, install it in a window shaded by a tree.