

# LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

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

## Cut Your Utility Bills: Garage Door a Key to Efficiency

By James Dulley

**Q: I want to replace my inefficient, leaky, noisy garage door with a new insulated one with decorative, yet secure, glass windows for natural light. What are the best designs, materials and features to consider? - M. D.**

A: When it comes to overall energy efficiency and street appearance of a house, people often forget about the door on the garage. Keep in mind that on a typical home, the garage door covers more than 30 percent of the frontal area. With lifetime warranties on many of the models, a new efficient, insulated garage door can be a good investment in your home.

Even though an attached garage is not heated or cooled, its energy efficiency still has an effect on your monthly utility bills. Just think how many times each day the door from the house to the garage is opened. Each time, it lets a gust of cold or hot, humid air enter your house from the garage.

An efficient garage acts as a huge thermal buffer between your house walls and the extreme outdoor temperatures, as well as blocking the direct force of the wind against the exterior house walls. Also, if you restore old cars in the garage like I do, you probably won't need to switch on an electric heater while you are working out there during the winter.

The two primary design features

that impact the energy efficiency of a garage door are the thickness and type of insulation and the airtightness of horizontal weather seals between each of the panels.

The number and quality of the glass, if you select a door with windows, is also important if you plan to work in the garage. For most activities in the garage, the natural light from a series of windows is adequate without having to switch on an electric light.

Since the panels constitute the majority of a garage door, their insulation level has the greatest impact on efficiency. Insulation levels in the top-quality, two-inch-thick doors range from about R-6 to R-18. Choose a door with a plastic thermal break between the indoor and outdoor steel skins. This blocks a direct path through the metal for heat to bypass the insulation.

Injected polyurethane foam provides the highest insulation value in the limited space between the garage door skins. Injected means liquid is pumped inside and expands as it begins to foam. The other effective insulation type is a piece of polystyrene foam (like a cooler) that is placed inside the door before the two skins are sealed together.

Check the joint design between the door panels for safety and efficiency. The newest designs are pinch-resistance joints that tend to push fingers out of the joint as the door closes (great around children). With the com-

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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 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.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**

- How a Co-op Works For You. -

## WHY WOULD A BUSINESS THAT SELLS ELECTRICITY ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE IT EFFICIENTLY?

Most businesses want you to buy more of what they sell. That's not necessarily true of your electric co-op. Sure, we want you to have all the electricity you need. But we also want you to get a lot of value for your power dollar. Wise use is one way to do that. You see, co-ops

were created to provide service to members, not profits to stockholders. That's still true today. So, don't be surprised when we offer hints on electric efficiency. We just want you to get the most value for your money. Regardless of how much electricity you use.

***We Get Our Power From You.***

## Hidden Heat Sources Can Tax Your Air Conditioner

Factors you may not think of - number of occupants in the home, lighting, appliances, cooking and bathing - can make your air conditioner work harder this summer.

"Little can be done to control the number of occupants in the home," said Gene Meyer, extension mechanical engineer at Kansas State University. "However, you can make a conscious effort to shut off unnecessary lighting and thus reduce the heat associated with it."

Heat-producing appliances include all electrical components. The major contributors in the home are refrigerators, freezers, toaster ovens, stoves, washing machines and dryers.

You should clean refrigerator and freezer coils on a regular basis. This will reduce the running time of the refrigerator or freezer and reduce the amount of heat given off. When using your stove, use the exhaust hood so the heat and moisture released will be exhausted. Also, use the bath exhaust fan to remove excess moisture when bathing.

Appliances like dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers should be used in the evening or early morning when there is less load on your air conditioner.

## How Can I Tell which Appliance Uses the Most Electricity?

The amount of electrical energy used by an appliance depends on both the rate the appliance uses and the length of time it operates, according to Tom Logan, instructor of architectural engineering and construction science at

Kansas State University. The rate is measured in watts or kilowatts (one kilowatt equals 1,000 watts) and can be found on the appliance nameplate.



You determine the amount of electrical energy used by multiplying the rate in kilowatts by the time in hours, Logan said. A 750-watt toaster operated six hours a month uses about 4.5 kilowatt-hours. Electricity in Kansas costs about six to eight cents a kilowatt. So, this toaster costs

between 27 and 36 cents a month to operate.

Typically, appliances that use energy at the highest rates are electric furnaces, water heaters, ranges, refrigerators, air conditioners and dryers.

Electric skillets, toasters, blow dryers, dishwashers and other small heating devices use energy at a slightly lower rate.

Finally, items that use energy slowly include light bulbs, small motor-driven appliances and clocks.

"When hours of use are figured in, those items that generally use the most electricity are heating and air-conditioning systems, water heaters, refrigerators, freezers and ranges," Logan said.

Account numbers **1954201** and **102801** are the winners of a \$25 credit on your bill. Claim your prize at Lane-Scott Electric by June 25, 2002.

**We're on the web**  
**[www.lane-scott.com](http://www.lane-scott.com)**



Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

The newsletter is now available on our website. If you have problems viewing it or can't find it, please call us and we will assist you.

## Cut Your Utility Bills

(Continued from page 12-A)

plexity of the mating surfaces, pinch-resistant joints also tend to be very airtight.

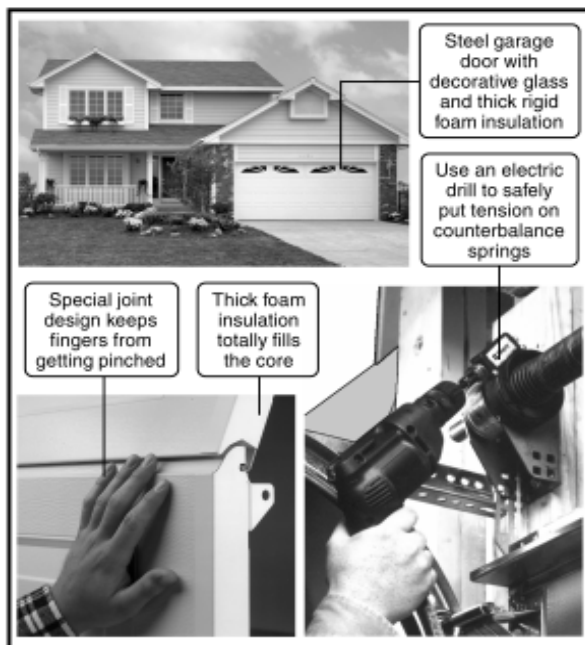
Several of the best standard seal designs to look for are tongue-and-groove, shiplap, compression and flexible polyurethane.

Of these, tongue-and-groove and shiplap joints form an interlocking seal between the two panels for lifelong seals. There is no flexing or compressions as with the other two designs. Some garage doors use a combination of seal designs.

Although the garage door opener has an impact on the noise level when a garage door opens, the design of the door is most significant. High-quality rollers, hardware, counterbalance springs and adjustable tracks reduce the noise to where it will not wake you, even with a bedroom above. For do-it-yourself garage door insulation, consider a garage door with a safe counterbalance spring adjuster. Some can be wound up using a cordless drill and a socket.

The newest garage doors are carriage-styles. When closed, they resemble side-hinged carriage doors. They open upward though, like a regular section garage door. Some use insulated steel with wood trim while others use all real wood with insulation. Grained stainable steel doors also resemble real wood. Beautiful copper (resists salt air) and tough composite plastic door skins are also available.

Another recent improvement is the use of energy efficient windows in the garage door for natural light and decorative qualities. You can choose durable crystal clear acrylic plastic windows in attractive beveled and leaded designs. There are also optional inexpensive decorative snap-in panes that allow you to quickly change the look of the door



New garage doors are efficient, attractive, safe

whenever you wish.

Real glass windows are available in frosted and leaded (for privacy) and efficient double-pane styles. The newest styles have different window shapes across the door to create a sunset pattern.

Write for (instantly download - [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Utility Bills Update No. 894 - buyer's guide of 11 insulated garage door manufacturers listing insulation types/levels, styles, materials, colors, glass options, seals, panel contours and features. Please include \$3 and a business-size SASE. James Dulley, *Kansas Country Living*, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244.

## Your Capital Credits Check!

### What's it for?

Well, the capital credits check that some of you are receiving in the mail is your share of the margins (profits) from doing business with your cooperative. It is based upon your patronage during past years. When possible, your board votes to distribute some of that excess revenue to the members who helped to produce it. That margin (or profit), then, is allocated (credited) to the members in direct proportion to the patronage. The more electricity you purchased, the more patronage capital you have accumulated.

While we try to operate at cost, it is a requirement of our mortgage that we maintain a certain level of profitability.

However, capital credits are not always assured since they are based on the cooperative's ability to pay them. Obviously, we must retain some capital to build equity, finance new plant and to provide working funds. This helps to forgo rate increases.

So, when you receive your capital credits check, remember that it was your support of your cooperative that made it possible. It also is tangible proof that as a member, you share in any margins (profits) that your cooperative generates.

Got any questions? If so, give us a call.



## ***Load Management:***

### **A way to level out peak electric use**

Your household and family members are consuming electricity at any given time. This is known as "load." And what we do is add up all of the electric consumption from all our consumer-owners at any given time to determine the load for the whole system.

There comes a time, every day, when the system reaches its peak. That's when all of you, all at once, are using the most electricity. And, of course, we must have enough power to meet these needs. It's also the time when it costs the most to provide that power. The way to help keep electric rates stable is to reduce this peak. It's what we call "load management." There are some things you can do at home that can help.

Since the late afternoon to early evening is the peak time for us, you can help by using major appliances, such as the washer and dryer in the morning, or later on in the evening. When preparing dinner, remember that slow cookers and other small appliances consume less electricity. And, using energy wisely helps to reduce the need to invest in new power sources.

You can help promote load management at home. And we can help, too. If you have any questions about load management and how we're doing, or you need more information about how you can help, just give us a call.

### **Cutting Meter Seal Is Illegal**

Cutting or removing the seal from your electric meter enclosure is both dangerous and illegal. The seal is used by our employees to prevent tampering and accidental shock. If you need to remove your meter contact your Cooperative. When we find a cut or missing seal, we investigate for possible meter tampering. If you have an unsealed meter, please contact us so it can be resealed.

**Happy Father's Day  
June 16**



## ***You Still Have Time To Lower Your Summer Cooling Bill***

**SERVICE YOUR AIR CONDITIONER  
OR HEAT PUMP.**

**CHECK YOUR DUCT SYSTEM.**

**CHANGE AIR FILTER EACH MONTH**

**CHECK YOUR ATTIC INSULATION.**

**SERVICE YOUR ATTIC FAN.**

**INSTALL AN ATTIC FAN COVER.**

**REPLACE YOUR OLD HEAT PUMP**

**OR AIR CONDITIONER.**

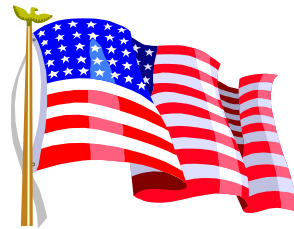
**INSTALL A HEAT PUMP FOR  
YEAR-ROUND BENEFITS**

**Call us if you have any questions or desire any additional information.**

## **Summer Can Mean Higher Bills**

Why do electricity costs increase in the summer? The main reason is that the demand for electricity goes up due to the need for air conditioning.

Utilities must have enough generating capacity to meet their greatest demand for power throughout the year, which is usually in the summer months. Their cost of owning and operating the additional generating capacity necessary to meet the high summer peaks is reflected in the higher rates charged in the summer.



***WE WILL BE CLOSED  
THURSDAY, JULY 4TH  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
INDEPENDENCE DAY.***