

# Electric Line Newsletter

## Make A Change, Save Some Change!

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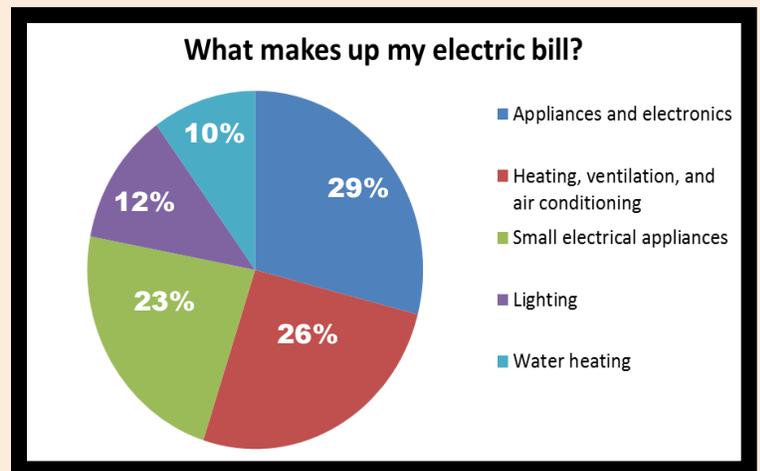
There are a lot of ways you can save money, but the simplest of them all is being mindful over your electricity usage.

Everyday, people leave their homes with appliances either plugged in or still turned on. Believe it or not, this adds up over time and may be a large reason as to why your electric bill becomes so high.

Shockingly, the type of light bulb you use factors into how much your electric bill is. Your basic light bulb is an incandescent bulb. These types of light bulbs have been popular for decades. However, a much more energy efficient and long lasting bulb exists. LED bulbs last longer and use less energy; resulting in a lower electric bill.

Heating water is surprisingly expensive. Water is used daily as we shower, cook, wash dishes, and do laundry. All of the previously mentioned tasks are typically done so by using hot water. Though, none of them necessarily *require* hot water. By using cold water, you are skipping out on heating, meaning less energy usage. Point in case? Use cold water when going about your daily tasks.

Simple, quick changes can make a world of difference. By becoming more mindful of your energy usage, you will see a positive change on your electric bill.



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## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH SOLAR POWER?

Solar energy is a growing trend, but the science behind it is often misunderstood. By harnessing energy from the sun, we are able to power our homes, cars, and appliances. The key behind solar power lies within photons and their reaction with solar panels.

The sun unleashes photons, which are particles of electromagnetic radiation. These photons travel from the Sun to Earth. The photons come into contact with solar panels, which are made up of silicon. Solar panels have two layers, and each serve a particular function. The solar panels are full of both protons and neutrons, surrounded by electrons. The presence of photons disrupts the atom's make up, and knocks off the electrons. This allows them to break loose from their atoms and move between both layers of panels, producing a direct current. An alternating current is created through the use of inverters. The inverters change the direct current's input voltage to the alternating current's output voltage. This process allows the alternating current to become grid compatible. Electricity then flows to your home's electrical panel, your car, or whatever appliance you wish to power.

Solar energy is a simple and clean method of power. As time goes on, solar energy will become more affordable and more widespread. As long as the sun is shining, we will always have a form of power.





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## Make your own dryer sheets!

Things you'll need:

- 1/2 cup of white vinegar
- 6-8 drops of essential oil (lavender, peppermint, eucalypts, etc.)
- Multiple pieces of cloth
- Glass container with a sealing lid

## How to do it:

- Fold each cloth and place into the container
- Mix your essential oils and vinegar into a jar
- Pour your mix onto the cloths until they're damp, but not soaked
- Ring your newly made dryer sheet out before you dry your next load
- Throw your cloth into the dryer with clothes and enjoy your self made dryer sheet!

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com