



TRI-COUNTY Electric Cooperative, Inc.

" A Commitment to Service and Savings "



Spring is Upon Us And It's A Great Time To Prepare For Summer!

Mother nature will soon be delivering a bounty of color around our homes and this is the perfect time to make your home is ready for the dog days of summer.

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One project that always needs attention is spring window cleaning. Removing and cleaning screens and washing the windows and frames gives us an opportunity to inspect the caulking around the frame of the window and also check the weather stripping on the moving parts of the window to make sure the material is doing its job properly. Frequently, as windows age the vinyl weather stripping begins to get hard and fail. If you find cracked, broken or missing weather stripping then repairs are recommended to reduce infiltration through the cracks and crevices. It's recommended that you remove a sample piece of the weather-stripping and take it to your local hardware center



Weather-stripping on the outer edge of the window reduces air transfer rates and reduces heating and cooling cost.

so they can match it up. Take measurements of each window so you will know how much material is needed. Take a close look at every surface between the frame and window edge to make sure that the same type of material is used on each surface. A properly fitted window is important when the goal is to reduce heating and cooling cost.

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Exterior doors are another area that needs attention, especially doors with the greatest amount of use. The open and close cycle puts stress on the door gaskets and can lead to failure. Materials used to manufacture the door gaskets will age with time and lose flexibility. Once this

occurs, the gasket will be less and less effective in providing a tight seal. Visually inspect the door gasket looking for tears and cracks. Use your finger to flex the gasket to make sure it is still pliable. If the gasket material has been painted it should be replaced. A good way to test the performance of the gasket is to take a dollar bill and close the door with the bill inserted between the door and frame. If the gasket is working properly you should encounter firm resistance when you attempt to remove the bill with the door closed. Test the door on all four sides at various locations to make sure the seal is tight all the way around.



Weather stripping on doors prevents infiltration and loss of conditioned air from inside the home. Make sure your doors are properly sealed by inspecting the gasket material.

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Another area to inspect is under the sink where plumbing penetrations coming through the wall need to be sealed up. Frequently after plumbing repairs have been made, the insulation has been removed because it was wet or presented a fire hazard when the repairs were being made. Sealing off



Inspect under sinks for wall penetrations made for plumbing and electrical systems. Sealing off these areas will reduce infiltration and keep conditioned air in the home where it belongs.

these areas will prevent infiltration eliminating drafts and prevent unwanted entry of pests. Voids can be stuffed with insulation or injected with expanding foam purchased from your local hardware center.

Keeping conditioned air in the home reduces cost for cooling and heating. By inspecting and repairing windows, doors and plumbing penetrations you will make your home more comfortable and energy efficient.



Severe Weather Are You Ready?

Springtime in Texas usually has its fair share of severe weather. Taking a few moments to get your family prepared is always time well spent, especially with young children in the home.

Thunderstorms can deliver devastating damage when they strike, especially when they strike and the local community failed to heed the warnings issued by the National Weather Service. A weather alert radio is a good investment and can be used as an alarm to wake your family when storms roll through an area late at night. The radio when placed on standby will listen for an alert broadcast for your area by the National Weather Service. If an alert is issued, the radio will sound an alarm prompting you and your family to seek shelter. The radio will also provide updates on severe weather locations and movement.



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Information on weather movement is available on the internet, which allows you to track storms as they move through your area. The web site is <http://radar.weather.gov>. This will bring up a map that will allow you to select the radar facility closest to your location. Once you access the site, it's a good idea to save it as a favorite for quick access in an emergency. Twenty four hour weather is currently available on HD-TV providing live radar information and storm tracking.

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Select a safe location inside your home which could be a hallway, closet or bathroom. Cast iron bath tubs offer great protection from flying debris and protect against crushing in case of structural failure. If it becomes apparent that your area is in the direct path of a killer tornado, you should leave the home and seek shelter in a ditch or low spot. Keep in mind that heavy rains frequently travel with these storms so stay away from creeks that could quickly fill with fast moving flood water.

Key Points for Readiness!

- Early warning system with fresh batteries.
- Flash lights and fresh batteries.
- First aid kit in case of injuries.
- A safe location to ride out the storm!

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It Pays To Stay Informed!

Find your account number in our Member Information Bulletin and you will receive a \$20.00 credit on your electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed below and make them aware of your discovery.

It pays to stay informed!

From The Cooperative Kitchen

This month's recipe was provided by Martha Mojica from Haslet. She will receive a Texas Co-Op Power Cookbook, compliments of TCEC.



CHOCOLATE COBBLER

... INGREDIENTS ...

- 1 - Stick of Butter or Margarine
- 1 - Cup of Sugar
- 1 1/2 - Tablespoons of COCOA
- 1 - Cup of Self-Rising Flour
- 1 - Teaspoon of Vanilla
- 2/3 - Cup of Milk

Melt one stick of butter or margarine in a 9 X 13 inch pan.

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Mix together all of the above ingredients and pour over the melted butter.

Mix 1 cup of sugar and 1/4 cup of cocoa and sprinkle over the mixture.

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Top with 1 1/2 cups of boiling water.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or more if needed. When the middle is done it is ready to enjoy!



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