

POWER Source

December 2007

Customers first.
Energy that lasts.

Last-minute holiday gifts

Give a HUG – a Home Utility Gift certificate from ODP. Suitable for everyone from grandmas to new college graduates, our gift certificates allow you to credit the utility account of any ODP customer. HUG certificates are available in any amount over \$25 at one of our customer service walk-in centers. You'll just need to provide the name and address of the HUG recipient when making your purchase. ■



Weather the winter better

5 minute task

Check your programmable thermostat settings and make sure the thermostat is set for 62-65° F at night or at times when you are away from home for several hours. Setting the thermostat accordingly guarantees energy – and cost savings. ■



Stay warm and comfortable indoors while the winter winds blow with these winterizing tips for your home:

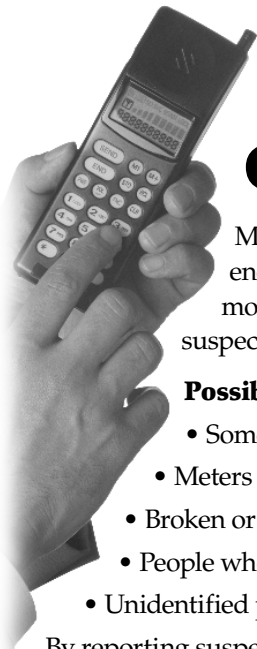
- Choose compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) to replace your standard incandescent bulbs. CFLs are much more efficient and are designed to last years longer.
- Replace your furnace filter once a month. A dirty filter means your furnace has to work harder – and that means a higher heating bill.
- Check around doors and windows for leaks and drafts. Inexpensive foam strips and caulking can help seal in warm air and cut your heating bill. Fabric draft stoppers that lie in front of exterior doors help, too.
- Purchase pre-cut foam gaskets at home improvement stores and install behind switch plates and outlet covers on the outside walls of your home.
- Install a programmable thermostat to turn the heat down while you're asleep or away from home, and gently raise your home's temperature just before you need it.
- Be sure your fireplace damper is closed when the fire isn't burning. An open damper will draw warm air out of your home.
- Adding insulation to your attic or installing new windows helps keep the warm air inside. When you're choosing insulation, remember that the higher the R Value, the more effective it is. For windows, lower U Values mean less inside heat is conducted to the outside. Adding a self-adhesive film to windows that don't have a low-E coating costs less than new windows. ■

Handling holiday leftovers



Still wrestling with leftover holiday ham? While a refrigerator that is filled to capacity works more efficiently than an empty one, don't overcrowd it: air needs to circulate freely. To protect food quality, keep your refrigerator's fresh-food compartment set between 37 - 42°F and the

freezer set between 0 - 5°F. Liquids should always be covered in the refrigerator because the vapors they give off can overwork the compressor. Finally, don't forget to give your refrigerator's coils a quick cleaning to avoid overworking the motor. You'll save energy and help prolong the life of your appliance. ■



Putting heat on energy thefts

More than \$6 billion in utility service is stolen each year nationwide – and when energy is lost to thieves, utility companies recover the cost by billing other customers more. You can prevent the problem by making an anonymous, confidential report of suspected energy theft to us at **1-800-331-7370**.

Possible signs of energy theft:

- Someone other than an ODP employee working on a meter
- Meters that have unusual wires attached or equipment that is upside down
- Broken or missing meter seals
- People who brag about low energy bills achieved by bypassing their meters
- Unidentified people tampering with overhead power lines

By reporting suspected energy theft to us, you'll help keep your own energy costs under control. ■

Record heating costs expected nationwide

This winter, the costs of heating oil, electricity and propane are expected to reach record highs across the U.S., as a result of strong demand worldwide for crude oil and low petroleum inventories. A report from the federal Energy Information Administration suggests Americans may pay about 10% more on average to heat their homes this winter. We are monitoring our costs and will provide you with more information as it becomes available.

If you're concerned about a high heating bill, consider signing up for our Budget Payment Program. You'll be able to easily budget for your energy bills by paying the average of your 12 months' usage each month. Register online at eon-us.com.

Should you be faced with a high energy bill you can't pay, please contact our office immediately and we will help you work out a satisfactory payment plan. ■

CONTACT INFORMATION

Old Dominion Power

ODP Customer Service
Monday – Friday
7 a.m. – 7 p.m. (EST)
(800) 981-0600

24-hour
Power Outages
(800) 981-0600

Business Service Center

Monday – Friday
7 a.m. – 6 p.m. (EST)
(859) 367-1200
(800) 383-5582

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Lower-cost cooking

Using a microwave oven not only saves time, it saves energy compared to using a conventional oven. Smaller appliances cost less to operate, and appliances that concentrate heat – like a slow-cooker – are very efficient. When preparing meals on the

cooktop, use the smaller burners and smaller pans to avoid wasting energy.

Here's an easy, inexpensive vegetable soup recipe to throw in your slow-cooker or heat on the stove for a cold winter night. ■

Five-Can Vegetable Soup

Makes about 10 cups

Ingredients:

- 1 can (14 oz.) chicken or beef broth
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) sliced carrots
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) cubed new potatoes
- 1 can (14 oz.) kidney beans

Directions:

Combine all ingredients in slow-cooker or large pot. Heat in slow-cooker for at least three hours or bring to a boil on cooktop and reduce to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper before serving. ■