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NEWS

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For more information, call us at 620-767-5144 or visit our website at www.flinthillsrec.com.

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

FROM THE MANAGER

Unlock Comfort and Savings

If you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list.

We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to www.energystar.gov, a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home — that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

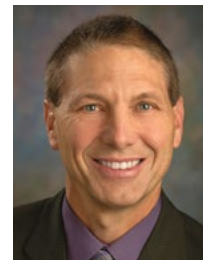
The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors.

If you have older windows, odds

are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight.

If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window.

Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.



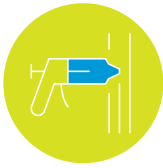
Chuck Goeckel

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3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort and savings.



1 CAULK

Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.



2 WEATHERSTRIPPING

Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.



3 INSULATE

Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

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Another effective but simple weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are V-channel, felt and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners opt for felt or foam tape; both options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple of years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door.

If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping. Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options.

Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash.

If you're unsure how to install weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like www.howstuffworks.com

or www.energy.gov for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

The best way to identify air leaks in your home is a blower door test, which can be conducted by an energy expert. A blower door test helps determine how airtight your home is and identify air leaks. In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you avoid moisture control issues, improve indoor air quality and extend the life of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs.



ENERGY SCAMS UNMASKED

RECENT UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers typically disguise themselves — either physically or digitally — as utility employees or representatives to steal consumers' money or personal information. A common trick is to claim a consumer's bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service if payment isn't received immediately. Scammers approach consumers through a variety of means, including phone calls, text messages, emails and even in-person visits. However, the digital line of attack is increasingly more common.

For example, new capabilities disguising caller ID or "spoofing" can make the phone number you see on caller ID appear to be from a trusted source. Spoofing makes it easier for

Consumers with water, gas and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. But in today's digital world, every swipe and click increases the risk of potential scams.

Scammers are more sophisticated than ever before, and they understand our increasing reliance on technology. With their sharpened digital knives, scammers have adapted their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through a variety of methods.

Flint Hills REC wants to help you avoid energy scams, whether a financial loss or leak of your personal information. This month, we'd like to share updates on some of the latest utility scams, as well as tips to help you stay safe from even the craftiest scammers.

JOIN THE
**PEAK ALERT
SAVINGS
PROGRAM**

**SIGN UP TO
SAVE**

Save on your bill when electricity demand is high. Sign up for **PEAK ALERT SAVINGS** and receive an energy credit when you lower your energy usage during peak hours.* The lower your usage, the **BIGGER THE CREDIT** you could be eligible for. The sign-up deadline is **JUNE 30**.

**SIGN UP BY
JUNE 30**

**MEMBERSERVICES
@FLINTHILLSREC.COM**

620-767-5144

**Some program restrictions apply. Credit only valid for reductions in the months of July and August, from Monday-Friday from 3-6 p.m. (excluding July 4). This program will be active on peak load days when alerts are sent to participating members. Visit www.flinthillsrec.com for a full list of program details.*

scammers to deceive you because it's more difficult to immediately verify the call. Another recent scam uses fraudulent websites that are identical to a utility payment webpage — and what's worse, these pages are often promoted on search engines to trick consumers into clicking and making a payment.

Another recent scam involves phone calls, text messages or emails claiming you overpaid your electric bill and will receive a cash or banking refund. This offer may seem too good to be true, and it is — it's likely a scam aimed at stealing your personal information.

SPOTTING A SCAM

There are several red flags you can watch for to identify an energy scam.

Scammers often use high-pressure tactics to create a sense of urgency, like claiming your electricity or other services will be disconnected if a payment isn't made immediately.

Additionally, scammers may ask for unusual payment methods such as gift cards or cryptocurrency. If someone is pushing for an unusual payment method, it's likely a scam.

You've probably noticed that many digital scams, like emails or text messages, include poor grammar, spelling errors and odd email addresses. These are red flags, so when you see these dodgy forms of communication, consider it a potential scam.

WHAT FLINT HILLS REC WILL (AND WON'T) DO

Flint Hills REC will never demand an instant, immediate payment and threaten to disconnect your service without prior notices or warnings. We strive to resolve challenging situations and work with our members to avoid disconnects.

Flint Hills REC will never ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email. We offer several secure payment options, including in-person, on

our website, www.flinthillsrec.com, scheduled payments, SmartHub app or phone payment by calling 855-940-3884.

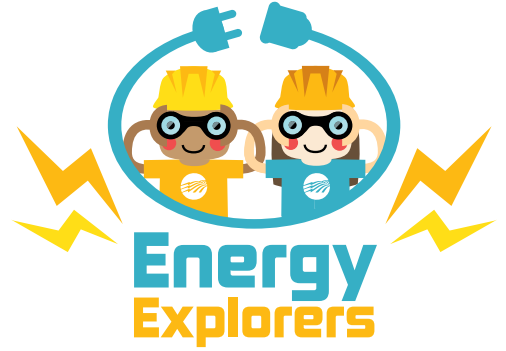
AVOIDING SCAMS

Whether in-person, over the phone or online, always be suspicious of an unknown individual claiming to be a Flint Hills REC employee requesting banking or other personal information. We will only send you text messages if you have opted in for important alerts like outage updates from our SmartHub app.

If you're ever in doubt about a potential energy scam, give us a quick call at 620-767-5144 so we can assist. Flint Hills REC wants to help protect you and our community against utility frauds, and by notifying us about potential scams, you can create the first line of defense. We encourage you to report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others in our community from falling victim.

WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.



Psst! Check your work in the answer key.

- ▶ When possible, use _____-operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
- ▶ If you hear _____ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
- ▶ Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
- ▶ All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept _____.
- ▶ Never handle electrical devices if you are _____ from swimming or other water activities.

WORD BANK

thunder

wet

battery

dry

electrical



ANSWER KEY: 1. BATTERY, 2. THUNDER, 3. ELECTRICAL, 4. DRY, 5. WET