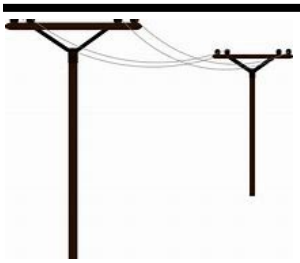
MID-YELLOWSTONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

406-342-5521

P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .

HOT WEATHER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

Soaring temperatures and sweltering summer nights can cause electric bills to skyrocket. This summer, take a vacation from high electric bills by making your home more energy efficient. Here are some tips to do that.

1. Air conditioning consumes the most electricity in your home, so keep it at a comfortable 78 degrees.
2. A ceiling fan can circulate air to create a draft that makes you feel cooler, allowing you to raise the thermostat about 4 degrees.
3. Install a programmable thermostat and set it to automatically use less cooling when you're away or asleep.
4. Set your fridge temperature at 36-40 degrees and the freezer at 0-5 degrees.
5. Some electronic devices use energy even when turned off if they remain plugged in, so connect them to a power strip and shut it off when not in use.
6. Use heat-generating appliances—oven, dishwasher, dryer, etc.—during cooler times of the day.
7. Use high efficiency light bulbs to cut back on heat generation and energy use.
8. Keep the cool air in and the heat out of your home by caulking cracks and gaps around doors and windows.
9. Keep your garage door down, a warmer garage in the winter and cooler garage in the summer will save energy.
10. Change HVAC filters monthly.

Have a safe and happy summer!

SUMMER IS CONSTRUCTION TIME

Remember to obtain an electrical permit

What is a Power Surge?

There is a difference between a voltage spike and a surge. A voltage spike lasts for only 1-2 nanoseconds, while a voltage surge may last for 3 nanoseconds or more, which makes its potency detrimental to wires inside the machines.

A power surge can take place because of the following reasons:

Surges and voltage spikes may occur more frequently when a lot of heavy-duty electronic devices are being used simultaneously, such as multiple air conditioners, the fridge, multiple televisions, multiple computers/laptops, music systems, the microwave, etc. When high-energy consuming devices are switched on/off, they tend to absorb a substantial amount of electricity which can cause pressure in the circuit.

Power surges can occur because of a sudden spark of lightening bolts or heavy rain which interferes with the inflow of electricity into the circuit. Lightening can increase the electrical charge/pressure in the power line or circuit, causing surges of electricity to reach the devices connected to wall sockets or electric outlets. This is another reason why it is prudent to unplug your machines during heavy rainfall, specially if your house is prone to electric fluctuations.

Surge Protector vs. Power Strip: Which is Better?

If you are thinking of purchasing a power strip, then reconsider your options. When it comes to the standoff between a surge protector vs. power strip, the surge protector is the best choice for your machines. Here is why…

People often end up purchasing a power strip believing that they are the same as surge protectors. The fact remains that the two are extremely different. Their functions are not alike. Even though, these days most power strips come with bult in surge protectors, it is always better to check the components label to find out if the dual properties are actually present or not.

The standard mark of voltage flow in the USA is 120 volts, but most homes have provisions for 208 or 240 high-end volts which accommodate a central tap. Anything above this limit, if not controlled, has the potential to inhibit the proper functioning of the electric circuit, not to mention damage the machine as well. Damage occurs because the wires inside the machine are degenerating over time, and so are the components within the machine.

Surge protectors pass the electricity through itself, and if the voltage spikes or surges above 120 volts, then it directs the excess electricity into the earthing or ground wires.

The best way to protect your machines is to remember to unplug them after use. Power surges occur mainly because of electrical devices that require high power to function, which is why it is prudent to switch off what is not needed after every use.

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JUNE 2021

MID-YELLOWSTONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.