

# Lines

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A PHI Company

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## Important Information for Pepco's Maryland Customers

Pepco is working with Maryland officials to develop ways to help ease the impact of the recently announced electric rate increases driven by rising fuel costs. Please watch for more information on this issue.

### *When Temperatures Climb, You Can Keep Cooling Costs Down*

During hot weather central air conditioning can account for about 30 percent of your energy bill. So now is a good time to have your cooling equipment checked by a qualified technician to make sure it's running efficiently. Also remember to replace air filters monthly.

Finally, set the thermostat between 75 and 78 degrees and save about 5 percent on cooling costs.

Pepco has more energy-saving tips. Visit [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com), and click on the "Read conservation tips" link.



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energy  
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## Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

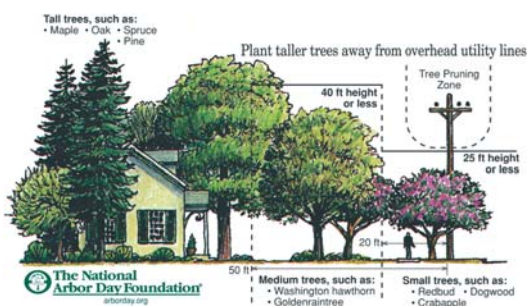
We are fortunate to live an area with so many trees. Not

only do they add to the natural beauty of our landscape, but they are good for the environment. They absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, which makes our air healthier. When planted in the right place, trees can reduce air conditioning use, which means you save energy and money on utility bills.

It is important, however, to plant the right tree in the right place. Here are some things to keep in mind when planting trees:

- Do not plant trees that will grow tall near power lines. If they come into contact with the lines they can pose a safety hazard and can result in power outages.
- Do not attempt to trim trees near power lines. It is dangerous and can result in injury or death. Consult a professional.
- Do not plant vines or other creeping vegetation near utility poles.

To learn more about tree planting and care, visit the Arbor Day Web site at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).



*We're connected to you by more than power lines.®*

## STEP UP TO SAFETY WHEN USING LADDERS



When carrying long or tall items such as ladders, poles, scaffolding, tree saws and pool cleaning equipment, keep them parallel to the ground to avoid contact with overhead wires. Before raising any equipment into the air, make sure they are clear of power lines.

Overhead power lines can present safety hazards for anyone doing overhead work – from homeowners painting their homes or cleaning gutters to contractors operating cranes, booms, or other high-reaching construction equipment.

Accidental contact with power lines can result in serious injury or death. Until you are able to verify a power line's voltage, always work at least 25 feet from it. This is the distance ordered by OSHA for the highest voltage lines.

For more electrical safety tips, visit [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com). And while you are there, check out “Megawatt U.” It's loaded with good, reader-friendly information about electricity safety.

## Pepco Offers Convenient Payment Options

Paying your Pepco bill is easy. We offer several convenient options that take the hassle out of bill paying time and don't even require a stamp.

- Log on to [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com) and pay your bill online. It's fast and free.
- With Pre-Authorization Transfer (PAT), your bill is automatically deducted each month from your checking, savings or other designated account.
- Use Pepco's voice response system and pay over the telephone with a credit or debit card. Call 202-833-7500. There is no charge for this service.
- Call BillMatrix at 1-800-960-1242 and pay your bill with a credit card. Have your Pepco account number handy. There is a nominal fee for this service.
- Stop by many of the Western Union, ACE and Global Express outlets in Pepco's service area and pay in person. These providers charge a small fee.

And don't forget about Pepco's payment plan that helps customers even out monthly payments. It's called the Average Payment Plan. It allows you to make a fixed payment each month to avoid fluctuating bills. Every six months the amount paid is adjusted to reflect overpayment or underpayment.

This payment option is helpful for those on a strict household budget, especially in the summer. That's when most electric bills are at their highest due to air conditioning use.

To learn more visit [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com) and click on the “Billing & Payment” link.



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Customer Service: (202) 833-7500  
TTY Telephone Number for Hearing Impaired: (202) 872-2369  
To Report Power Outages: 1-877-PEPCO 62 (1-877-737-2662)