

Lines

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PEPCO CUSTOMERS

WWW.PEPCO.COM

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DID YOU KNOW?

Q: *I have several recessed lighting banks on different switches. If one traditional bulb goes bad, can it be replaced with a compact fluorescent bulb, thereby creating a mixed bank of lighting on a switch?*

A: Yes, you may have different types of bulbs, operated by the same or different lighting switches. You will want to make sure that you do not exceed the recommended wattage, which is often stated with the traditional bulb in mind.

Q: *Should the heat pump fan be in the "auto" position or in the "on" position?*

A: The most energy-efficient setting is "auto" when operating a heat pump fan.

(cont. on back)

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

Indoor Electrical Safety

Winter means many of us will be spending more time indoors. Here are some tips to help ensure that you use electricity in a safe manner:

- Never use an electrical appliance on a wet surface while you are wet or standing in water, or where it may fall into water.
- Know the location of the breaker box in your home and the proper switch to flip in case it becomes necessary to shut off the power in your home. Also, mark that switch so no one will accidentally flip it on during maintenance.
- Unplug electric appliances before repairing or cleaning.
- Do not stick any object other than an electrical plug into an outlet, and if you have small children in your home, make sure outlets not in use are covered with childproof plastic covers.
- Use only appliances with the Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) symbol.
- Keep electrical cords out from under rugs and heavy furniture.
- Do not overload outlets with too many lights, appliances or other electrical equipment.
- Use bulbs that are the proper wattage for your light fixtures and lamps.



- Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords.
- Do not run electrical cords through water or wet surfaces. Take special care when using electrical trimmers and cutters to not damage cords.
- When replacing circuit breakers and fuses, use the correctly sized device.
- Unless you are absolutely certain that you can make an electrical repair safely, call a qualified electrician.
- Protect yourself and your family by having your home electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician or licensed electrical inspector every few years.

Do We Have Your Number?

To report a power outage, call 1-877-PEPCO-62. Our automated outage reporting system can handle 100,000 calls an hour, which reduces busy signals and hold times. Your outage complaint then goes directly to our trouble processing center for response.

The system works by matching your phone number to your account, so it's important that we have your current phone number on file. If you've moved or changed phone numbers, call Pepco anytime at 202-835-1007 to update your phone number.

Electricity: 85 Ways to Save

There are literally scores of things you can do to save money on your electric bill. Pepco's brochure, *85 Ways to Save Money and Energy*, is full of no- and low-cost things you can do to curb your electricity use and keep your bill in check.

Log onto www.pepco.com. Click on the "Safety & Conservation" link, where you can download a copy. If you do not have Internet access, call our Customer Care Center at 202-833-7500, to request a copy.

Income Tax Credits Help Working Families

Low- and moderate-income families may benefit from two substantial tax credits – the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit.

Families may qualify for the federal and state EITC if in 2006 they:

- were raising one child and earned less than \$32,001 (or less than \$34,001, if married),
- were raising two or more children and earned less than \$36,348 (or less than \$38,348, if married), or
- had no children and earned less than \$12,120 (\$14,120, if mar-

Megawatt U: Electrical Safety Information for Kids—and Adults!

Pepco's Web site has an excellent resource for learning about electrical safety. It's called "Megawatt U," and it is a great place for kids—and adults—to learn about staying safe around electricity. It also provides a good overview of electricity, including how it is produced and makes its way into your home or business.



Visit www.pepco.com, and click on the "Safety & Conservation" link.

What Is a Watt?

- Electricity is measured in watts. Watts measure the amount of output of an electrical device.
- The higher the watt rating of an appliance, the more electricity it uses.
- Large amounts of electricity are measured in kilowatts. 1 kilowatt = 1,000 watts.
- Electricity used over time is measured in kilowatt-hours. One kilowatt-hour is the number of kilowatts (1,000 watts) used over an hour.

- A window air conditioner uses 620-1,630 kilowatt-hours per year. A ceiling fan consumes about 50 kilowatt-hours annually.

Check your Pepco bill for how many kilowatt-hours of electricity you used during the latest billing period and for each of the last 12 months.

You are also encouraged to visit Energy Know How Solutions on our Web site. It is an excellent tool for analyzing your electricity usage, offering you tips on how to reduce your consumption—and lower your bill in the process. To access the site, go to: www.pepco.com and click on the "Safety & Conservation" link.

ried) and were between the ages of 25 and 64.

Families who earned more than \$11,300 in 2006 may also be eligible for the refundable Child Tax Credit on their federal tax return. You may be eligible for free tax preparation if your income was below \$38,000.

For information on the EITC and free tax preparation, contact the following numbers:

In the District of Columbia, call this special number: 211. In Maryland, call 1-800-492-0618.

Did You Know? (cont. from front)

If you have a question that you would like answered in this column, please send it to one of the following:

Postal Address:

Did You Know Column, Pepco Corporate Communications
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Fax: 202-331-4857

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A PHI Company

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)