

Enjoy the Great Outdoors, but Stay Safe Around Electricity



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Call before digging in your yard. Coming into contact with underground power lines or other equipment can result in serious injury or death.

**In Maryland call:
1-800-257-7777**

**In the District call:
(202) 265-7177**

Utility services personnel will come to your residence and locate any underground lines and equipment. There is no charge for this service.

Spring is just around the corner. That means we'll all be spending more time outdoors, which increases the chance of being near power lines and other potentially dangerous electrical equipment. Here are some important safety tips for you and your family:

- Never touch or come into contact with a power line.
- Check for overhead lines before using a ladder, building a scaffold, trimming branches or doing other types of overhead work.
- When carrying long or tall items such as poles, ladders, scaffolding, tree saws and pool cleaning equipment, keep them parallel to the ground to avoid contact with overhead wires. Before you raise any items into the air, make sure they're clear of any power lines.
- Assume a fallen power line is live. Stay away from it and immediately call Pepco at (202) 872-3432.
- Never fly kites or model airplanes near a power line.
- Make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between the highest point of your boat and any power lines. Take this precaution when hauling, storing or sailing your boat.
- Keep away from electrical equipment.
- Keep clear of substations and transformers and make sure your children know not to play near them.

Pepco has produced a new brochure, *Work Safely Near Power Lines*. This publication, as well as other important safety information, is available on our Web site at www.pepco.com. Simply click on the "Safety & Conservation" link. If you'd like a hard copy of the brochure, call Pepco at (202) 833-7500.

We also recommend that you visit the "Megawatt U" site. It provides a good overview of how electricity reaches the consumer and includes safety information for children and adults.

Pepco's new video on electrical safety for firefighters, *Electrical Safety for First Responders*, offers important guidance on things firefighters should and should not do when fighting electrical fires. It stresses the importance of staying away from downed lines and calling Pepco immediately in the event of a fire or other emergency situation involving electrical lines or other electrical equipment.

The video was produced in conjunction with fire departments in the District of Columbia and Montgomery and Prince George's counties, and many of the scenes feature firefighters from those departments.

It is being made available free to area fire departments who will use it in their training classes. The project is part of Pepco's Emergency Services Partnership Program, through which the company fosters better coordination between the utility, first responders and emergency preparedness agencies.

Average Payment Plan Smooths Out Your Monthly Bill

Pepco has a payment plan that helps customers even out monthly payments. It's called the Average Payment Plan, and 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 about the Average Payment Plan, visit www.pepco.com and click on the "Billing & Payment" link. The site also features information on a variety of payment options, including online payment, Pre-Authorized Transfer (direct debit) and other convenient ways to pay your Pepco bill.



What Is a Watt? What is a Kilowatt-Hour?

A typical residential customer in the District uses about 770 kilowatt-hours of electricity each month on average. In Maryland, residential usage averages about 1,112 kilowatt-hours per month. But, what is a watt and what is a kilowatt-hour?

■ Electricity is measured in watts. Watts measure the amount of output of an electrical device. It is the electrical equivalent of horsepower.

- 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. It is the number of kilowatts (1,000 watts) used over an hour.
- A window air conditioner uses 620-1,630 kilowatt-hours per year (5,000-12,000 btu). 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. Always remember to use energy wisely.



A PHI Company

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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)