

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Ways to Save During Peak Summer Heat

Some of my favorite things about-Texas are the wide-open spaces and the friendly faces. With vast, open plains or mountains, quiet rivers or sandy beaches, Texas has something for everyone to enjoy. And much like the friendly smiles that follow you around the state, the Texas Summer heat will surely be there as well. While Summer is a great time to experience all that Texas has to offer, there are several ways to save energy while staying cool during the hottest part of the year.

One of the most effective ways to beat the heat is to harness the combined cooling power of air conditioning and fans. Fans help you feel cooler and allow you to set your thermostat higher, conserving energy and saving you money. Another helpful solution is to install a programmable thermostat to create a cooling schedule to increase the temperature when you are sleeping or away from home. Automating energy-saving behaviors can have a big impact on your electricity bill and it takes one small thing off your to-do list.

To help keep the cool air inside your home, use caulk and weatherstripping around windows and doors. Also, be sure that you change your air filters regularly so that your cooling system is not having to work harder to cool your home. Another helpful tip is to close curtains and blinds during the hottest part of the day to keep solar heat outside. For more energy efficiency tips, I encourage you to visit our information library at [Taylorellectric.com/Services/](https://www.taylorlectric.com/Services/)

Behind the Power.

In the evenings, once the heat has modestly relented, enjoy a picnic at a park or consider a cookout in your backyard. Cooking outdoors keeps heat from the oven and stove out of the kitchen, lessening the burden on your home's cooling system. When you do cook indoors, try using a slow cooker, air fryer or pressure cooker to minimize energy use and avoid adding residual heat to the air in your home.

At Taylor Electric, we want to help you save money and stay cool at the same time. By implementing a few preventative measures, you will lower your electric bill and keep your home comfortable. I hope you enjoy these last few weeks of summer before a busy school year kicks off again. If you have any questions about how to further conserve energy, please give us a call and one of our member service representatives will be happy to assist you.



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PROSTOCK-STUDIO | ISTOCK.COM

Binge on Your Favorite Shows, Not Electricity

IT SEEMS LIKE everyone is binge-watching movies and TV shows these days. Of course, constant use of the TV can push up the household energy bill.

Here are seven ways to conserve energy while watching TV:

Consolidate. If three or four family members are watching different TVs in different rooms, you're using three times more energy than if the whole gang agreed on a show and watched it together in the same room.

Record. Watching a show recorded via digital video recorder—or even the old-school method of VCR—can save energy in two ways. First, it allows your family to view their favorites any time, so you can choose to watch during off-peak hours—early in the day or late at night when fewer people are using electric appliances all at once. Second, it lets you fast-forward through the commercials, which means you'll spend less time watching TV and therefore less time with the TV turned on and burning energy.

Dim. The lower the contrast and brightness of your TV screen, the less energy the device uses. Factory settings are usually higher than necessary.

Listen. Lowering the volume by as little as 2% saves some energy, even if you only do it during commercials.

Switch. Instead of watching shows on TV, view them on a laptop, desktop, tablet or phone.

Darken. Turn off other lights in the room where you are watching TV and other rooms in the house to enhance the experience and save power.

Upgrade. Consider upgrading your old system to a newer, more energy-efficient setup. An upgrade could mean downsizing, as a smaller TV screen typically uses less electricity.

And the best way to save energy on TV viewing is to not turn on media components at all. With summer in full swing, it's time to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. ■

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Fourth of July Safety Reminders

SOME COMMUNITY FIREWORKS shows might still be on hold this summer as public health recommendations evolve.

If you plan to use your own fireworks, check first if it is legal in your area, and remember these safety pointers from the American Red Cross and National Safety Council.

- ▶ Never give fireworks to small children.
- ▶ Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.
- ▶ Always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- ▶ Keep a supply of water such as a garden hose or bucket of water close by as a precaution.
- ▶ Make sure the person lighting fireworks wears eye protection.
- ▶ Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight a “dud.”
- ▶ Never use fireworks while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ▶ Don’t light fireworks indoors.
- ▶ Don’t try to relight or handle defective fireworks.
- ▶ Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Independence Day

Sunday, July 4

Our offices will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of the holiday.

National Chili Dog Day

Thursday, July 29

International Day of Friendship

Friday, July 30

 MACKENZIE BRYAN Jim Ned High School	 JAMES TYLER BURGESS Wylie High School	 CASE COKER Wylie High School	
 MARIANNA DEYNZER Wylie High School	 ELISE GRIMLAND Wylie High School	 BONNIE HORN Wylie High School	 CAYLEE PARKER Merkel High School
 KYLA PORTER Hawley High School	 BAYLEIGH SMITH Wylie High School	 CECI WIDDER Wylie High School	

CONGRATS!



RUSLAN DASHINSKY | ISTOCK.COM

Stay Safe From the Sun

PROTECTION FROM ultraviolet radiation is important all year, but the summer sun requires additional precautions.

Sun protection is important because overexposure to UV light can cause skin cancer—the most common form of cancer in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The invisible radiation from the sun, tanning beds and sunlamps can damage skin cells in as little as 15 minutes. Other harmful effects from exposure to UV rays include sunburn, premature aging of the skin and eye conditions such as cataracts.

While it may be easy to remember to take protective measures when the sun is out, remember that UV rays shine through even on cloudy days.

Protect your skin this summer with these tips from the CDC:

- ▶ Stay in the shade, especially during the middle of the day.
- ▶ Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs. Keep in mind that clothes made with tightly woven fabrics offer the best protection, and getting fabric wet diminishes its protective capacity.
- ▶ Wear a hat, choosing one with a wide brim to shade your face, ears and neck. A baseball cap may only shade part of your face, leaving your ears and neck at risk.
- ▶ Wear sunglasses with lenses that block harmful rays. Most sunglasses in the U.S., even inexpensive ones, block most UV rays and protect the eyes themselves, as well as the tender skin around the eyes.
- ▶ Use sunblock with an SPF, or sun protection factor, of at least 15. Reapply if you're out in the sun for more than two hours and after swimming, sweating or drying off with a towel.
- ▶ Avoid indoor tanning, which exposes users to UV radiation. ■

6 Outdoor Kitchen Trends for Summer

ONE SURE WAY to save energy during the summer is to cook and eat outdoors. Here are six ways to spruce up your outdoor kitchen or dining area:

Install an ice maker. Most outdoor ice makers are a little bit larger than a mini-fridge and can produce anywhere from 50 to 80 pounds of ice per day.

Spurge on the grill. The grill is the star of any patio's show. The latest trend favors kamado grills, which are ceramic and allow the family chef to cook at ultra-high temperatures.

Build storage. The more dishes, utensils, cleaning supplies, seat cushions and condiments you can keep outside, the less work each cookout will be. Consider installing weather-resistant stainless steel cabinets.

Make cleanup easy. Have a sink or an outdoor-safe dishwasher built into your outdoor cooking and dining area.

Turn up the heat. You won't need a patio heater during the dog days of summer, but you will extend the seasonal life of your outdoor space if you install one. ■



RASA PETREMIENE | ISTOCK.COM