

Looking for Clues to **LOWER** Your Electric Bill



RECNEWS

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What Would an Energy Sleuth Find inside *Your* Home?

Like any veteran detective, Rich Mialki walks into a home looking for clues. But he's not hoping to solve a crime. Instead, he's looking to save you money on your electric bill.

A skilled energy sleuth, Mialki starts his probe before entering the home. Is there a crawl space? Is it properly sealed, inside and out? Is there a hot tub? If it's winter, does it have a thick cover on it to keep in the heat?

Mialki spots holiday lights inside, but his joy turns to concern as the bulbs are not energy-saving LEDs.

He also notices a space heater. He explains that those are huge energy hogs. Instead, he recommends wearing extra layers or using blankets to stay warm.

He then sneaks a peek at the thermostat. This home is a toasty 78 degrees on a chilly December day. He makes a note that the homeowner could reduce her electric bill by changing the setting to 68 degrees or lower when it's cold outside.

Mialki looks back toward the door and scans the windows. The front door closed tightly, with a nice seal, but the windows don't have weather stripping, which can keep the cold air outside where it belongs.

Mialki takes a breath as he turns to a prime suspect: The heating system.

He starts to investigate: When was your heat pump last checked by a NATE-certified technician? Is your HVAC fan set to Auto or On? It



should be in the Auto position.

Your System or Mode setting should be set to Heat (Cool in the summer), not Auto. Otherwise, your HVAC will run Heat at night and Cool during the day in transition months - or seasonal months that might turn out cooler or warmer than we'd expect.

Can we get serious for a moment, Mialki asks? He then explains how leaky and poorly designed air ducts can affect both the comfort and energy use in the home. If you have an older HVAC system, you might want to get that inspected.

Finally, Mialki pulls out an air filter. These can be tricky, he thinks, because he never knows what he'll find. In this case, it's not good. Dog hair, dust — and wait! - is that a Cheerio? Mialki reminds the homeowner: Check and replace air filters regularly. A clean filter helps the system run efficiently and improves air quality.

He tucks away his fact-finding notebook and steps into the night, another energy-efficiency case in the books.



For more tips on what Mialki recommends, visit myrec.coop/save

SurgeAssist Affordable Protection Against Unseen Threats to Your Home Electronics



Many of us rely on an array of electronic devices and appliances to power our homes — from refrigerators and televisions to air-conditioning systems and microwaves. But what happens when these essential items are damaged by a power surge, a sudden spike or drop in electrical energy? The costs to repair or replace them can be staggering.

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Surges can be caused by a variety of factors, both natural and man-made. Lightning strikes, tree branches making contact with power lines, or even vehicle accidents that damage power poles can all send electrical surges coursing through the grid.

For just \$5.95 per month—roughly 20 cents a day—SurgeAssist provides coverage for a wide range of home electronics and appliances. This includes everything from major items like refrigerators, HVAC systems, and stoves, to smaller gadgets like microwaves, televisions, and computers. The program reimburses up to \$2,000 in a 12-month period, ensuring that you won't have to bear the full financial burden if your essential devices are damaged.

Power surges, while often short-lived, can be devastating to equipment that we rely on daily. A sudden jolt of extra energy can fry circuit boards, ruin internal wiring, or leave devices completely inoperable. Even a slight dip in power can cause computers or home entertainment systems to malfunction. SurgeAssist steps in to help mitigate these risks, offering a safety net that ensures your household electronics are covered when an unpredictable surge strikes.



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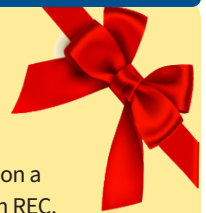


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