

URECC News



June 2023

For the members of Upshur Rural Electric Cooperative

Take Care of Your Home During Vacation

You've planned and waited for months, and summer is finally here. It's time for the FAMILY VACATION! But before you hit the road for the week of excitement or relaxation, make sure you have your home safe, secure, and energy efficient for the time you are away. The last thing you need to interrupt your peace of mind is worries about how things are at home. This article will hopefully allow you to shake those worries by making your home safe, secure, and using a minimal amount of energy.

Inside the house

Set timers on interior lights. This goes a long way in deterring burglars, who often look for crimes of opportunity. Don't allow your house to appear as if no one is home. It will also avoid use of energy by powering unnecessary lights during the daytime.

Energy Vampires. Unplug the computer, TV, stereo, other electronics, and unused appliances. Even when these objects are not turned on, many still use a small amount of power. Also, you never know when a power surge may occur due to lightning, so be prepared. Unplugged keeps them safe.

Don't make or socialize status updates. Never broadcast your location on social media. Even if you think that it's only your friends or colleagues viewing your online profiles, it's safest not to leave any sort of opening for a possible burglar.

Secure valuables. If you don't already have your jewelry or other valuables in a safe deposit box, now might be the time to do so. Doing this also ensures that you don't leave out anything valuable in plain sight that a burglar might be able to see from a window.

Set the HVAC. Set a programmable thermostat to lower your air conditioning usage while you are gone. The recommended setting is 78 degrees when you are not home. Also, remember to change the thermostat's battery so the thermostat will work properly.

Turn off ceiling fans. Remember, the purpose of a ceiling fan (or any fan) is to make you FEEL cooler in the room with airflow. A fan does not actually cool a room, so the power will be wasted if you're away.

Check doors and windows. It might seem obvious, but double-check just to be sure. Lock all doors and windows.

Install a Ring Doorbell or security camera. A motion-detector camera will notify you if there is a visitor to your home. If you have a security system, the security company can also receive notices.

Outside the house

Unplug outside tools and battery chargers. These items will use electricity regularly and also be subject to damage should there be a surge.

Adjust pool filtering times. You will not be using your pool each day while you are gone, so look at possibly skipping a filtering cycle in order to save energy.

Arrange for lawn care. Have your landscaping tended to by a friendly neighbor or local service. Before you leave, trim tree branches that might allow access to a climbing burglar.

Stop newspapers and mail. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries, or have them regularly picked up by a neighbor. Again, you don't want to easily clue in a burglar to your absence by the mounting newspapers on your doorstep.

Plan some exterior lighting. Set these lights on timers as well to deter burglars and not waste power.

Don't leave spare keys outdoors. Collect any hidden spare keys from around the exterior of your home. Remember, burglars know the most popular hiding places, like beneath mats and in potted plants.

Lock the garage. Even if there is no entrance to your house from the garage, there's still a chance for numerous things to be stolen. Secure the door and any entrances to the garage.

Whether you hit the road, fly away, or have a relaxing "stay-cation", we wish you a safe and happy summer from URECC!



2023 URECC Scholarships



Congratulations to the 2023 URECC Scholarship recipients.

\$4,000 Scholarship Recipients

Ezmiranda Rambo - Gilmer
McKenna Lockhart - Harleton

\$2,000 Scholarship Recipients

Cade Hart - Gilmer
Travis Cheatham - Harleton

\$800 Scholarship Recipients

Evan Weese - Harleton
Naomi Fountain - Avinger
Austin Rhodes - Sabine
Kyle Wright - Harleton
Jefferson Dunaway - Longvie
Summer McArthur - Hallsville
Sophia Carder - New Diana
AJ Hendrix - Hallsville
Katie Cooley - Union Hill
Layne Morris - Ore City
Mylie Anderson - Hallsville
Presley McGraw - Harmony
Campbell Laney - Christian Heritage
Allyson Burns - Pittsburg
Jhoana Garcia Navarro - Pittsburg
Kaylynn Miles - Gilmer
Karlee Cochran - Harleton
Jessica Hobbs - Union Grove
Thomas Barker, IV - Sabine
Ingrid Baizabal - Pittsburg
Addison Boyle - Hallsville
Casey Boersma - Union Hill
Elizabeth Sellers - Arp
Paisley Lowery - Gilmer
Gracie Stangord - Union Grove
Elizabeth Mathison - Harleton
Zayden Doddy - Pittsburg
Kenya Ross - Jefferson
Aspen Woodall - Sabine
Chloe Copeland - Harleton

Top 5 Benefits of Adding Insulation to Your Home

1. Lower Energy Bills & Energy Consumption

A big reason to update your insulation is the significant impact it will have on the amount of energy your home uses. If your home is not properly insulated then you are using more energy than is necessary to heat and cool it.

2. Prevents Mold and Damage

A leaky roof is an issue no one wants to deal with. A leaky roof coupled with mold is an even worse issue. Having an added layer of insulation creates a moisture barrier that keeps unwanted water out of your home. It is also much easier to remove old, damaged insulation and replace it than it is to replace your entire roof.

3. Healthier Home

Living with mold in your home and not realizing it can lead to a number of health issues. Symptoms such as a mild cough and headaches can lead to more serious issues such as chronic bronchitis and other respiratory illnesses. Insulation also helps keep allergens and pollutants outside of your home. Having fewer irritants in the air and out of your home also leads to fewer asthma attacks for any asthmatic persons or pets living in your home.

4. Increased Comfort

Do you have to add or take off layers depending on what floor you're on? If so, the addition of insulation could really help with this problem. Adding insulation will help to ensure the temperature is more consistent throughout your home. Insulation also can help with soundproofing and noise pollution. Whether or not if the noise is traveling from floor to floor, or from outside to inside, adding insulation to your home will help drown out the sounds.

5. Added Value to Your Home

Adding insulation is a great way to increase your homes overall value. This is because adding insulation will result in a more efficient home. Potential home buyers will pay more for a home that is energy efficient than one that is not. They also get the added benefit of moving into an already comfortable home. This also means adding insulation will add more comfort and a return on your investment.

Summer is here, and with an abundance of fresh blackberries in East Texas...

Fresh Blackberry No-Churn Ice Cream

Ingredients

- 4 cups of blackberries
(rinse & pat dry)
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 14 oz sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract



Instructions

Add the blackberries to a blender and pulse until fully pureed. You want a smooth, juicy consistency. Press the puree through a fine-mesh sieve and discard the pulp. You should have about 2 cups of liquid.

Transfer the liquid to a medium saucepan, add in the lemon juice and sugar. Heat over medium-high heat until reduced by half and thickened, about 5 minutes; stir occasionally. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until cold, about 2 hours.

Add the heavy cream to a large bowl. Using an electric mixer beat until stiff peaks form. Turn the speed to low and slowly pour in the condensed milk. Add the vanilla extract. Turn the speed back up to high and beat until thickened.

Transfer 2 cups of the whipped cream to a separate bowl. Add in the cooled puree and mix until well combined. Gently fold into the remaining whipped cream to create swirls. Don't over mix or you will lose the swirls.

Transfer to a freezer-safe container and freeze for at least 6 hours.