



City of Dover Customer Quarterly



PUBLIC UTILITIES NOT-FOR-PROFIT



SPRING ENERGY TUNE-UP



Just as your car needs a tune-up every few thousand miles, your home deserves one twice a year, spring and fall. Before summer beckons you to crank up your air conditioner, ask a qualified technician to make sure it's in good working order and ready for another steamy season. Then get to work cleaning up the energy inefficiencies that can make your summer electric bills soar:

- Remove the glass globes or lenses from your overhead lights, and wash them in warm, soapy water. Buildup of dust and dirt dims the light from the bulbs they cover.
- Vacuum or brush the dust from your refrigerator condenser, which usually sits beneath the bottom grille. Take a peek at your owner's manual to learn how old your unit is. If it's starting its second decade, it's time for a new, energy-efficient model that will burn up half of the electricity of an old unit.
- As you take out your stored-away spring clothes, avoid running the washer or dryer unless you have a full load. Also, use cold water for washing clothes, which can reduce your machine's energy use by 75%. Clean lint traps, too.
- Replace filters in your central air conditioning system and in all window air conditioners monthly.
- Buy a dehumidifier so you can run it during the summer to reduce energy costs.
- Apply caulk or weather-stripping around windows so they don't let your cool, conditioned air escape.
- Check the insulation to make sure it's properly installed because what traps heat in winter seals it out during summer. Finally, make sure gable vents in the walls and ridge vents along the roof are open and unblocked to allow air circulation upstairs.

The City of Dover would like to thank Rural Arkansas and California Energy Commission for their contribution to this article.

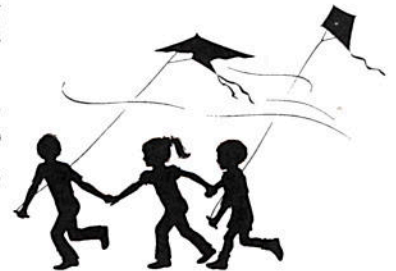
DON'T DISCOVER ELECTRICITY WITH YOUR KITE

Flying kites is one of the few spring pastimes that has survived in the video-game era and can still captivate children, but when electric lines and telephone poles dot the skyline, kids need to take special care when flying their kites.

Parents should supervise kite-flying children. Fly kites only in a clear, open, and level field, well away from any overhead power lines. If a kite gets caught in a utility line, don't try to untangle it. Instead, call City of Dover Electric Dispatch at 736-7086 to report the tangled kite, and leave it to the experts to get it away from the power line.

For safe kite flying, follow these rules:

- ◆ Remember Ben Franklin? He discovered electricity when his kite was struck by lightning. He was lucky; you might not be. **Never** fly a kite in stormy weather, as wet kites and string can conduct electricity.
- ◆ Use a strong, dry cord for string, and **do not** buy or make kites using metal or wire parts or cottonwrapped wire string. Metal parts will conduct electricity if they touch an electrical wire.
- ◆ Keep your eyes on the ground when running with a kite to avoid tripping over rocks and holes.
- ◆ Choose an area **away** from highways or streets when flying. **Do not** fly kites on rooftops.



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VISION

The City of Dover is a place where people want to live! Through the team effort of its elected officials, employees, and citizens, Dover is a clean and safe community with a future of balanced growth and opportunity where all citizens are heard, enjoy a high quality of life, and diversity is valued.