

the Messenger

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How to Clean Refrigerator Coils

...and why it matters!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance – just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.

1. Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.

2. If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.

3. Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.

4. Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

Four Area Juniors To Win Trip To Washington D.C.

Each year, starting in February, North Electric Cooperative begins taking applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington D. C. We spread the word through the Arkansas Living magazine and in the schools. And best of all, Youth Tour alumni tell their friends about this amazing opportunity.

The Arkansas' Electric Cooperatives began sponsoring the tour in 1990. Since then, hundreds of young Arkansans have gone on this trip and been inspired by the sites they see. They learn about the sacrifices others have made and what it truly means to be an American. They get to walk the grounds that George Washington and Thomas Jefferson walked. They view the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. They walk the halls of the Capitol where the nation's laws are crafted and they make new friends and dream new dreams.

Many students believe it will be too hard to win this trip or that it will take too much effort to sit through an interview. Some are encouraged to apply by their teachers, while others learn about it from their parents or grandparents who see it in the Arkansas Living magazine. Many say they almost didn't try. But ask any past Youth Tour winner and they will inevitably say they are glad they did, as it is truly a trip of a lifetime.

During the tour, the group visits historic sites such as Mount Vernon and Monticello, as well as the major sites in Washington, such as the U.S. Capitol; the museums of the Smithsonian Institution; the Newseum; and the Jefferson, Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Vietnam, Korean and World War II memorials. They also often visit with members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation.

The 2016 Youth Tour is set for June 8-16. For more details, contact Leah Rouse at North Arkansas Electric Cooperative or find an application online at www.naeci.com. You can also visit www.ecark.org or www.youthtour.coop to learn more. This month's issue of Arkansas Living will also feature a story on the program.



North Arkansas Electric Cooperative

will be closed Monday, February 15

in observance of Presidents' Day

- 24 Hour Emergency Assistance Will Be Available -

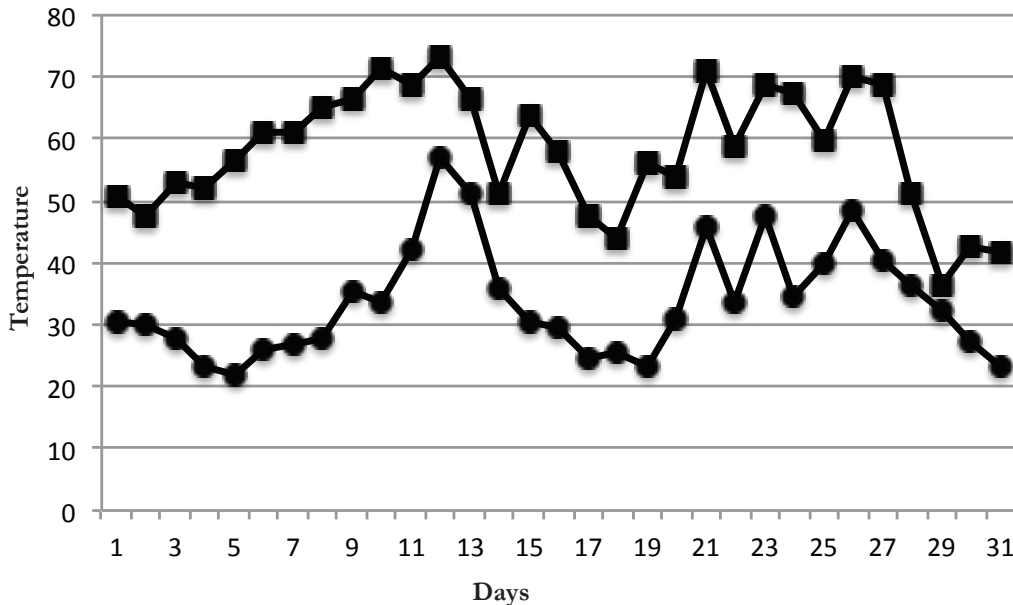


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually. Source: energy.gov

Daily Highs & Lows

December 2015



Average Daily High:
58.23 compared to 46.86 in 2014

Average Daily Low:
33.66 compared to 33.53 in 2014

Total Rainfall Amount:
7.72" compared to 2.51" in 2014

Warmest Day:
Dec 12th, 73.2 degrees at 3:00 p.m.

Coollest Day:
Dec 5th, 21.8 degrees at 7:30 a.m.

EECLP Funding Available For Energy Efficiency

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative has an Energy Efficiency Conservation Loan Program (EECLP) that allows members to borrow money from the cooperative at low interest to improve the energy efficiency of your home. All loans require an application process, which does include a credit check. Currently the interest rate for these fixed rate loans is three percent; however, this rate is subject to change. Below are the types of loans available:

Air Source Heat Pumps:

All air source heat pump loans will require a SEER rating of 14 and an HSPF of 8.2 with a amortization schedule for eight years. Board approval is required for loans exceeding \$20,000 and electric backup is required.

Geothermal Heat Pumps:

All geothermal heat pump loans will have an amortization schedule for 12 years. Board approval is required for loans exceeding \$20,000 and electric backup is required.

Weatherization:

Weatherization loans can apply toward Energy Star windows, Energy Star doors, insulation (ceiling, floor or wall) with minimum requirements meeting the Arkansas Energy Code and electric water heaters with efficiency of 91 percent or greater. Amortization schedule of five years with a required minimum loan of \$500.

Energy Efficient Lighting

Energy efficient lighting loans will cover LED installations with an amortization schedule for five years. The minimum loan amount is set at \$500 with no maximum amount set at this time.

Members can have more than one loan and can combine weatherization measures with a heat pump loan. Applications can be picked up at any of the three local offices. For more specific information, please contact NAEC at 870.895.3221.

Right-of-Way Locations

West Tree Service

Dolph, Pineville, and Mitchell areas.

Asplundh Tree Trim Crews:

Jordan area

We Want Your Response

North Arkansas Electric Cooperative abides by seven cooperative principles. The first principle of voluntary and open membership describes how cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

As a member-owned cooperative, we want your input. If you have questions, comments or concerns regarding the operation of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, please send them to Messenger, P.O. Box 1000, Salem, AR 72576, or e-mail us at info@naeci.com. Names will be withheld upon request, but all letters should be signed. All letters will be considered for publication in the Messenger or Rural Arkansas Magazine.

We appreciate your support these past 76 years and look forward to serving you in the future.



Operation Round Up 2016 Scholarship Application

now available online at www.naeci.com

All graduating seniors seeking higher education are eligible to apply.

Deadline to apply is Friday, April 15th.