



INDEPENDENCE

★ UTILITIES ★



On-Peak Electric Rates Begin in June

When you use electricity at your residence is just as important as how much is used. Annually there are on- and off-peak electric rate seasons. These are commonly applied by electricity providers throughout the U.S. and relevant to the City of Independence. This is a friendly reminder that

on-peak electric rate season begins in June.

Keep in mind the following dates:

- **On-peak electric rate season (summer)** includes the period from June 1 thru October 31.
- **Off-peak electric rate season (winter)** includes the period from November 1 thru May 31.

The on-peak electric rate occurs during the warmer months when electrical demands are highest for the year and purchase power costs are higher. The City of Independence purchases power from the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). You may notice messaging on your monthly utility bill reminding you about the on- and off-peak electric rate seasons. It is important to note the electric rates our customers pay have not increased since the last rate change in 2012. The on-peak and off-peak electric rates are seasonal fluctuations that occur within the energy market. For further information, please visit indep.us/rateandservicepolicies.



May is National Electrical Safety Month

Take a few minutes to ensure your home is safe for your family by checking a few areas that may cause electrical safety issues.

Flickering Lights, Broken Outlets, and Missing Switchplates

Look at all of your light switches and outlets throughout your home and ensure they are in a good condition. If they are not, work to safely replace them. A missing switchplate or a cracked outlet can potentially cause an electrical fire or electric shock.

Lights that flicker may indicate loose or faulty wiring, and should be checked by a professional electrician.

Overloaded Power Strips and Extension Cords

We all need to plug in a lot of different devices or equipment. While power strips are handy, avoid overloading the outlet. A fully loaded power strip may be too much for the outlet to safely handle. This could cause it to trip the breaker.

Consider moving items and equipment around if you are plugging too many things into one power strip.

Outdoor Lights and Security

Verify outdoor and security lights are working correctly.

Clean motion detectors and replace outdoor light bulbs if they are not functioning correctly.

Clever Ways to Save Money on Utilities

May showers bring June flowers and before we know it summer will be here. Keep in mind the following clever tips to save money on your utilities as the temperatures begin to consistently warm up.

- Change the filter on your furnace and keep vents clean
- Invest in fans and adjust your thermostat when away from home

- Unplug devices and equipment not in use (you'd be surprised how much energy these vampires can use)
- Invest in blackout curtains to block out light and keeping cool air from escaping
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with light-emitting diodes (LEDs) bulbs
- Utilize dryer balls to cut down drying time
- Use a dishwasher to wash dishes, it uses less water than washing dishes by hand
- Find and repair leaks from dripping faucets or toilets
- Invest in water-saving showerheads
- Run your appliances at night to save energy costs and for convenience



Benefits of Mulch and Composting

Both compost and mulch are common materials often applied to landscapes that play an important role in stormwater management. When applied effectively, they assist with water conservation, replenishment of groundwater, and improve water quality. They also help reduce the impact of rain on the soil, improve water infiltration, minimizes runoff, improve quality of the soil, and reduces the need for water and fertilizers.

Consider these tips when composting and mulching in your yard:

- When composting, break your materials into small pieces, this will allow for the break down process to accelerate.
- Thoroughly water newly applied wood or bark mulch to minimize the likelihood of a water-repellent surface



Drop-off Depot

875 Vista Avenue 8AM-3PM 2nd Saturday April - October



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