



Owner's Manual

Simple Repairs Keep Cold Out This Winter

With the kids back in school and the summer temperatures cooling down, it is a great time to tackle some simple weatherization projects. Repairing weather stripping, caulking leaks, replacing cracked glass or removing window air conditioning units can help keep the warmth from leaking out of your house and your budget this winter.

Begin by testing your home for air leaks. On one of Wasco County's windy days, close all windows and doors. Hold a lit stick of incense next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes and outlets. If the smoke stream travels out or into the room, you have located an air leak that may need repair. Also check plumbing and ceiling fixtures, attic hatches, and other locations where air may be leaking to the outdoors.

- Apply weather stripping around doors, windows and attic openings. Products come in open-cell foam, vinyl and metal. Ask your local retailer which is best for your specific project.

- Try caulking where siding meets with window and door frames, around baseboards, and where plumbing, ducting or electrical wiring penetrates through exterior walls, floors, ceilings, and soffits over cabinets.

- Other common leakage areas include window, door and basement moldings, along sill plate and band

joists on foundation walls, and along drop ceilings above kitchen cabinets and bathtubs.

- Large cracks or holes may be patched with an expanding foam sealant if they are in areas that will not be exposed to sunlight. Check that you are purchasing a product that is ozone safe. Flexible foam coupled with caulk can be used effectively for large cracks.

- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls to prevent air leaks.

- Look for dirty spots in your insulation which can indicate holes where air leaks into and out of your house. You can seal the holes by stapling sheets of plastic over them and caulking the edges of the plastic.

- Install storm windows over single-pane windows or replace them with double-pane windows. Storm windows as much as double the R-value of single-pane windows and they can help reduce drafts, water condensation and frost formation.

As a less costly alternative, use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Remember, the plastic must be sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

- If you decide to replace your windows with energy efficient-ones, contact the PUD before starting your project to see how you can qualify for a weatherization rebate.

- A chimney is designed specifically for smoke to escape. Warm air will too, so keep the flue closed when the fireplace is not in use.

- With any new construction or renovation, reduce exterior wall leaks by installing house wrap, taping the joints of exterior sheathing, or comprehensively caulking and sealing the exterior walls.

Talk to Us Before Buying a New Household Appliance

If you are in the market for a new energy-efficient household appliance, contact Northern Wasco County PUD (NWCPUD) before making your purchase to see if you qualify for a rebate on qualifying refrigerators, dishwashers and clothes washers.

Refrigerators are one of the highest energy users in a home. When shopping for a new unit, look for products with the Energy Star label.

Some use less electricity than a single 75-watt light bulb. NWCPUD offers a rebate of \$100 on the purchase of any Energy Star refrigerator.

PUD customers can also receive rebates on the purchase of a dishwasher with an energy rating of 0.58 or higher. Customers who have an electric hot water heater in their home will receive \$100, while customers with a gas water heater earn \$50.

NWCPUD offers rebates on clothes washers with a Modified Energy Factor (MEF) of 1.8 or higher. Customers with an electric hot water heater can earn a

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A newsletter for customers of Northern Wasco County PUD

\$175 rebate. Those with gas water heaters qualify for \$100.

Many purchases also qualify for an Oregon Energy Tax Credit. Customers can save hundreds of dollars on an appliance that qualifies for both programs.

To qualify for the rebate program, a separate application must be filled out for each appliance and completed prior to purchase. Forms are available at the PUD office and at participating local retailers.

This program is open to NWCPUD residential and commercial customers as well as owners of rental properties within our service area.

For more information about rebates on household appliances, please contact our Energy Management Department at 296-2226.

New Number to Call Before You Dig

When planting new shrubs or trees, building a deck or installing a new mailbox, make sure the first step in your outdoor home improvement project is identifying the location of underground utility lines. It is easier than ever with the new federally-mandated national Call Before You Dig phone number, 811.

Dial 811 a few days before you plan to begin digging and your call will be forwarded to the local One Call Center. An operator will record the location of your dig and notify NWCPUD of your plans. Within a few days, our crews will mark the approximate location of your lines for free.

Whether you are a do-it-yourselfer or a professional contractor, call 811 to protect yourself from injury and prevent damages to power lines that can disrupt service and result in fines or repair costs. Every project requires

a call, even if you have called recently about a similar job.

The national 811 number does not replace the state Call Before You Dig line. Either phone number will connect you with the One Call Center.

Have You Picked Up Your Piggy Bank?

When you sign up for NWCPUD's Pure Power program, you will also receive a free "green" piggy bank, an energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL), a visor clip and a "Things to Do" notepad.

Through our Pure Power Program, NWCPUD purchases one megawatt of wind power called Environmentally Preferred Power (EPP) from the Bonneville Power Administration. EPP is generated from 100 percent renewable wind power that does not pollute or affect fish or wildlife.

By supporting the use of renewable energy sources, you can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

Each 200 kilowatt/hour block of Pure Power costs \$5.00 in addition to your regular electric charges. After signing up, you will see an additional line item on your bill listing the monthly charge.

To sign up for Pure Power and receive your free gifts, call 296-2226 or stop by our office.



Community Calendar

SEPTEMBER

8

Aluminum Man Triathlon
9:00 a.m. (Olympic Course),
9:30 a.m. (Sprint Course) at
at Riverfront Park, The Dalles.

11

The NoteCrackers Sweet,
live music for social dance,
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at
the Mid-Columbia Senior Center.
For details, call 296-4788.

14-16

Historic The Dalles Days
celebrates the city's 150th
Anniversary. Activities include
2nd Street vendors, music and
tours. For details, call 296-2231.

15

The 3rd Annual RiverFest,
free event with music, food, mini
rafting trips, tethered hot air
balloon rides and play area,
10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.,
at Oasis Riverview
Campground, Maupin.

21-23

Tygh Valley Bluegrass
Jamboree at the
Wasco County Fairgrounds.
Friday: music showcase
Saturday: workshops, band
scramble and barbecue.

25

Northern Wasco County PUD
Board Meeting, 6 p.m.,
2345 River Road, The Dalles.