

## Don't Just Pack Your Bags Prepare Your Home for Vacation, Too

School is finally out for the year. The weather is finally cooperating here in Wisconsin. It's time for vacation!

Your bags are packed and you're ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination, remember your home needs a little prep, too.

Along with the usual tasks such as having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green. With the money you save, you might have a little extra for umbrella-garnished drinks or destination t-shirts!

### Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- Set or program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the outside temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors and furniture, as well as if you have pets keeps them comfortable, but saves on energy costs.
- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation, so that the air in your house continues to circulate.
- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power. Also do not leave chargers plugged into an outlet. (This tip is important when you're home as well. Do not leave chargers plugged in when they're not in use since they can overheat. Unplug charging devices after electronics are fully charged.)
- Make sure your sump pump is working.

### Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:

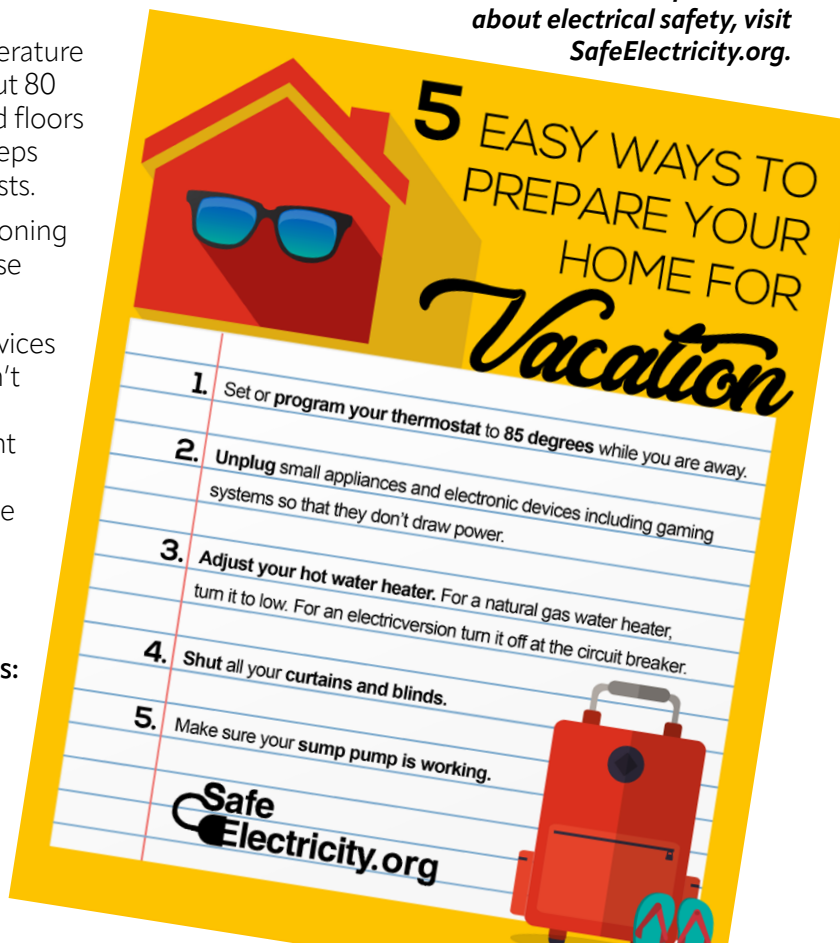
- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine, and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

### Here are some ways to your home looking lived in and ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it's easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.
- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.

And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don't come home to moldy leftovers.

**For more information  
about electrical safety, visit  
[SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).**



# 5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

1. Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. Cook with smaller appliances to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to off-peak hours when demand is lower.

## FROM THE BOARD ROOM

### April 2025 Board Meeting Highlights



#### Monthly Reports:

The CEO/General Manager gave an overview of the cooperative's current issues, including discussion on current Right of First Refusal legislation, the annual meeting, and economic development items.

The CFO report discussed March financials. It was a very average month for the cooperative, with sales and revenues within 1% of budget. Timely reports were prepared and submitted.

The Operations report noted that road bans are off and pole change outs have resumed. The contractor has completed brushing and trimming on the Knapp West circuit and will be moving to the Lucas area. The plowing contractor was back on the system for day-to-day underground installations as of April 21. An update was also given on the schooling and meetings attended over the last month.

The Engagement report included updates on surveys being sent out to members, the annual contractor's meeting, and the Operation Round Up grants awarded. A renewable energy presentation was given by staff to

Boyceville 4th graders as well. An update on the annual meeting was also given.

The Information Technology report discussed cybersecurity training results and an update on the network and phone outage the cooperative experienced.

Energy Services provided updates on the update to the metering software, facility maintenance, and the load management upgrades. It was noted that there are currently 149 active member-owned solar installations totaling 1,452 kW with three applications in the queue.

#### The following items were approved:

- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report on all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investment accounts.
- CVTC sponsorship

#### Other Business:

Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

Safety Meeting recap.