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@ your Service

Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—Water— Wastewater—Electricity—Water—Wastewater—Electricity—

New Lighting Standards Begin in 2012

Beginning in 2012, common light bulbs sold in the U.S. will typically use about 25% to 80% less energy. Many bulbs meet these new standards, including incandescents, CFLs, and LEDs, *and* are already available for purchase today. The newer bulbs provide a wide range of choices in color and brightness, and many of them will last much longer than traditional light bulbs. The lighting standards, which phase in from 2012-2014, do not ban incandescent or any specific bulb type; they say that bulbs need to use about 25% less energy. The bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA 2007) established these efficiency standards.

Measuring Light in Lumens

The new efficiency standards require light bulbs to consume less electricity (watts) for the amount of light produced (lumens). More traditional inefficient 100 watt (W) bulbs—typically incandescent bulbs—will give way to choices—including newer incandescent bulbs—that use only 72W or less to provide you a comparable amount of light (lumens). If you are replacing a 100W bulb, a good rule of thumb is to look for a bulb that gives you about 1600 lumens. Your new bulb should provide that level of brightness for no more than 72W, cutting your energy bill.

As of January 1, 2012, traditional, inefficient 100W incandescent light bulbs will not meet the standards and will no longer be available at most stores. However, you will have many other options that will save you money. Many of these choices are already on store shelves.

Similar standards will phase in for other types of light bulbs over the next three years. Traditional 75 watt incandescent light bulbs will no longer be available as of January 1, 2013. Traditional 40 and 60 watt incandescent light bulbs will no longer be available as of January 1, 2014.

New Lighting Standards Will Save You Money

The savings can add up. The new energy-saving light bulbs—incandescents, CFLs, and LEDs—are available today and by ***upgrading 15 inefficient incandescent bulbs in your home could save you about $50 per year.*** Since most of the bulbs also have longer life spans, you'll continue to save into the future. Nationwide, *lighting accounts for about 10% of home electricity use. With new EISA standards, U.S. households* ***could save nearly $6 billion dollars*** *in 2015 alone.*

Various specialty bulbs, including appliance bulbs, heavy-duty bulbs, colored lights and three-way bulbs, are exempt from the new standards.

For more information you can go to http://www.energysavers.gov/your_home/lighting_daylighting

BEFORE DIGGING: Call Gopher State One at **1-800-252-1166** for water and electric locations. All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least **48 hours** before digging

Business & Repair Office Hours
7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Business: 829-8726 **Repair:** 829-2193

Emergency 24 hour service 365 days a year:
218-829-2193

NOTICE: All electrical work performed in the City of Brainerd requires a "Request for Electrical Inspection" form to be filed, and work inspected by our inspector. Please call **825-3210** or **829-2193** for more

FAT-FREE SEWERS

Fats, Oils, & Greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for sewers, too.

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.

Where does the grease come from?

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat Fats, Food Scraps, Dairy Products
- Lard, Cooking Oil, Shortening, Sauces
- Butter and Margarine, Baking Goods

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the Plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your or your neighbor's home;
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner;
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets;
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms;
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

What we can do to help

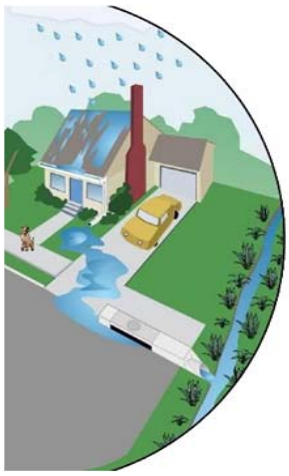
The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

There are several ways to do this.

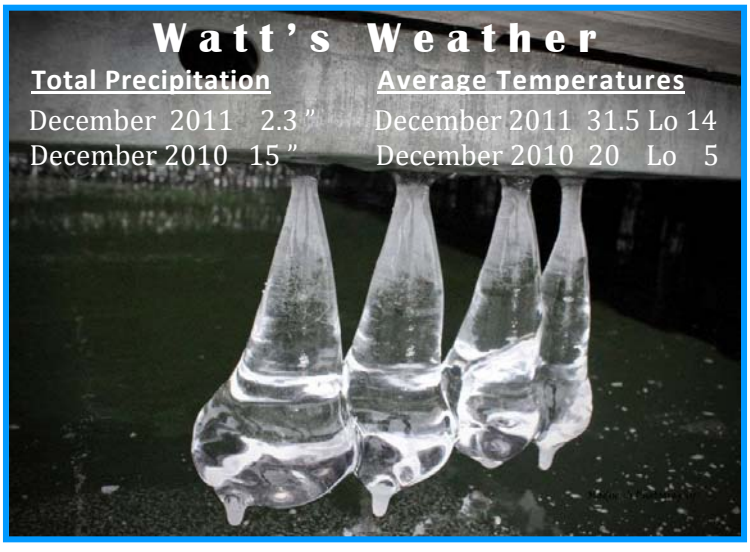
- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/ strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call BPU's Wastewater Treatment Plant at 825-3237 or 825-3240.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?



Stormwater is defined as any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of precipitation such as rain or snow. Minnesota's lakes, rivers, forests and farms all depend on the replenishing waters of annual precipitation. However, when rain falls on land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops it can wash away soil and sediment and pick up pollutants such as oil, chemicals and grease. This polluted runoff can severely reduce water quality. If left unmanaged, stormwater runoff can stress our streams, age our lakes, and degrade or eliminate our wetlands. The City of Brainerd is committed to improving water quality through education, public involvement and stormwater management. If you have any questions on this topic, please call the City Engineer's Office at 828-2309.



ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Beginning February 1, 2012 when you provide BPU a check as payment for your utility bill, you authorize BPU either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day you make your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.

If you have any questions, please give BPU a call at 829-8726.