



BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES

@ Your Service

May 2015
Vol: 27, No: 05

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

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

Business Number:
829-8726

Repair Number:
829-2193

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

EMAIL@BPU.ORG

WWW.BPU.ORG

Facebook:
Brainerd Public Utilities



Call **Gopher State One** at 1-800-252-1166 for water & electric locations before digging.

All requests for locations must be made by calling the above toll free number at least 48 hours before digging begins.

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 information.

Reminder:

Please do not plant trees, shrubs, etc within 10 feet of electrical transformers and/or junction boxes.

Thank you!

9 Tricks to Beat the Heat (without turning up the A/C) ▶

We're coming up on summer, chances are you'll find yourself fighting a battle with the heat between now and the fall. Maybe you don't have air conditioning, maybe you're trying not to rack up big bills, or maybe you're trying to be more environmentally-friendly. Here are some tricks we've accumulated through years.

1. Keep the curtains or the shutters closed to keep the sun from streaming directly in helps keep your place a little cooler.
2. Hang a wet sheet in front of the window when the air passes through the damp cloth, the moisture cools it off.
3. Try a bowl of ice in front of a fan. Let the cool air blow over you.
4. Turn your fan around to face out. Blow the hot air out of the house. If you have a ceiling fan, turn it so it spins in the opposite direction and blows the hot air up and out.
5. Arm yourself with a spray bottle filled with chilled water and douse yourself liberally. As the water evaporates, it cools you down. You can also try plunging your hands into a bowl of ice water.
6. Turn off (and maybe even unplug) your electronics, like your computer, tv, chargers -- they all give off heat, as do dishwashers and your clothes dryer. Try drying your dishes and clothes the old fashioned way (air drying and line drying). You'll save energy and keep the house cooler.
7. Switch to CFLs, not only are they good for the environment because they use less electricity than conventional bulbs, but the bulbs don't get nearly as hot.
8. If you have a white noise machine, try rain or waves the cool sounds will help you feel cooler.
9. Strip your house of its rugs, throws and knick-knacks. Try filling it with plants instead. It's a visual trick that, like the aural trick above, works to fool your mind; bare surfaces look cooler which in turn makes you feel cooler.

Air Conditioning Energy Saving Tips ▶

We've mentioned ways to keep cool without turning on your air conditioning, but sometimes it's a must. Stay cool with some of these energy saving tips!

1. During the night time hours you don't require the same level of conscious cool. Turn your AC down (so it is running less) during your sleep hours.
2. Use window or portable units. If you aren't into cooling your whole home, try using a portable unit to cool just the area you'll be working in.
3. Close off vents. The basement is traditionally the coolest room in the home, so try closing all the vents in the lower portion of your home. The cool air will go down there naturally and by closing those vents, you're forcing all the air up top first, cooling as it comes down.
4. Service your unit and check your ducts.
5. Rearrange your furniture. Furniture that obstructs air conditioning vents means you could be cooling the back of a chair or the bottom side of your sofa!
6. 78 degrees is a good point for an air conditioner to run at its optimal performance level.
7. Turning lights off can help reduce your heat, but paying attention to how much light you let in from open windows can also play a significant role. Although it might seem normal to open and close your windows everyday with the changing of the sun, it makes a huge difference in how much heat your air conditioner is competing against.
8. Is anyone home? If you can, while you're away, turn your AC up to 85 and make sure the windows and drapes are closed.
9. Don't forget to use your fan. We rely on air conditioners to keep things cool, but having the help of a few supplemental fans doesn't hurt. Using them to circulate the cool air means you don't need quite as much pumped into the room. They use less energy than your air conditioner unit, so having them around as backup is a great idea.



Moving ►



If you are moving, please notify our office at 825-3200 at least a day in advance to have your meters read for your final bill. Please have your forwarding address ready to give to us.

Also, if you are selling your property, we need the new owner's name when you call in to final your account.

BPU requires an application for service to be filled out if you are beginning service with us or transferring service in our service area. The application is on our website at www.bpu.org. We can also mail the application to you. We will not read the meters until we have received the completed application.

Recreational Fire Regulations ►

Open burning of lumber, pallets, wooden shingles, scrap wood, brush, tree trimmings, leaves, yard waste, cardboard, paper, garbage and other similar items is not permitted in the City of Brainerd.



Violations of these fire rules are misdemeanor offenses. To view the entire Recreational Fire Regulations, stop by the **Fire Station** at 23 Laurel Street or visit the City of Brainerd website. Staff at the Fire Station are available 24/7 to answer any questions at 218-828-2312.

Direct Payment Plan

We are pleased to offer you the **Direct Payment Plan** for utility payments. With this plan your utility bill payment can be made automatically from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

The Direct Payment Plan will help you in several ways:

1. Saves time – fewer checks to write.
2. No late payments. Your payment is always on time, even if you're on vacation or out of town, helping to maintain good credit.
3. Saves postage.
4. Easy to sign up for, easy to cancel.
5. No late payment charges.

Here's how the Direct Payment Plan works:

1. You will continue to receive your monthly bill each month, allowing you to review the charges.
2. Your payment will be automatically deducted on the due date of your bill.
3. Payments can be made from your checking account, savings account, Visa or MasterCard.

To take advantage of this service, complete the bottom of this form and return it to Brainerd Public Utilities, PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize Brainerd Public Utilities and the financial institution named below to make automatic payments from the account I have specified on this authorization form. I understand that this authority is to remain in effect until cancelled in writing by myself, Brainerd Public Utilities, or the financial institution designated. If utilizing direct payment from a checking account I have attached a voided check showing my account number and routing transit/ABA number.

Brainerd Public Utility Account number as it appears on my utility bill _____

Customer's Name _____ Phone # _____

Customer's Address _____

Account type: Checking[] Savings[] Visa[] Master Card[]

Bank Account # _____ Routing Transit/ABA # _____

Credit Card # _____ ^{OR} Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Kara at Brainerd Public Utilities with any questions: PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401, or 218-825-3201.