



BRAINERD PUBLIC UTILITIES

@ Your Service

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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.

When summer comes to mind, we almost always focus on picnics, a day lounging on the beach, and tasty iced drinks, hot weather has a gnarly side too. We're talking about intense heat and humidity make it impossible to sit comfortably, let alone sleep through the night. The obvious solution for cool, calm, sleeping is an air conditioner: Even small window units use up tons of energy and jack up monthly electric bills. Read on for some tried and true DIY strategies for staying cool on hot nights that may work for you.

Choose cotton. Save the satin, silk, or polyester sheets for cooler nights. Light-colored bed linens made of lightweight cotton (Egyptian or otherwise) are breathable and excellent for promoting ventilation and airflow in the bedroom.

Feel the freezer burn. Stick sheets in the fridge or freezer for a few minutes before bed. We recommend placing them in a plastic bag first. Granted, this won't keep you cool all night, but it will provide a brief respite from heat and humidity.

Be creative. If you thought fans are just for blowing hot air around, think again! Point box fans out the windows so they push hot air out, and adjust ceiling fan settings so the blades run counter-clockwise, pulling hot air up and out instead of just twirling it around the room.

Cool off. A cold shower and rinsing off under a stream of tepid H2O brings down the core body temperature and rinses off sweat so you can hit the hay feeling cool and clean.

Pamper your pulses. Need to cool down, stat? To chill out super-fast, apply ice packs or cold compresses to pulse points at the wrists, neck, elbows, ankles, and behind the knees.

Fill up the tank. Get a leg up on hydration by drinking a glass of water before bed. Tossing, turning and sweating at night can result in dehydration, so get some H2O in the tank beforehand.

Stay away from the stove. Summer is not the time to whip up a piping hot casserole or roast chicken. Instead, chow down on cool, room-temperature dishes to avoid generating any more heat in the house. If hot food is in order, fire up the grill instead of turning on the oven. And swap big meals for smaller, lighter dinners that are easier to metabolize. The body produces more heat after you chow down on a huge steak than a platter of fruits, veggies, and legumes.

Get low. Hot air rises, so set up your bed, hammock, or cot as close to the ground as possible to beat the heat. In a one-story home, that means hauling the mattress down from a sleeping loft or high bed and putting it on the floor. If you live in a multi-floor house or apartment, sleep on the ground floor or in the basement instead of an upper story.

Encourage cold feet. Those ten little piggies are pretty sensitive to temperature because there are lots of pulse points in the feet and ankles. Cool down the whole body by dunking feet in cold water before hitting the hay.

Clothing. Less is definitely more when it comes to summertime jammies. Pick loose, cotton clothing.

Get cold comfort. Here's a four-season tip for keeping utilities charges down: Buy a hot water bottle. In winter, fill it with boiling water for toasty toes without cranking the thermostat. During summer, stick it in the freezer to create a bed-friendly ice pack.

Unplug at night. Disconnect electronics. Gadgets and other small appliances give off heat, even when turned off. Reduce total heat in the house (and save energy!) by keeping plugs out of sockets when the appliances are not in use.

Get creative with grains. Rice and buckwheat aren't just for eating! These cupboard staples can also keep you cool on hot nights. Stock up on buckwheat pillows (google it), which don't absorb heat like cotton and down. And for a cold compress on hot nights, fill a sock with rice, tie it off, and stick it in the freezer for an hour or so. The compress will stay chilly for up to 30 minutes, definitely enough time to nod off.

Create a cross-breeze. Position a fan across from a window, so the wind from outside and the fan combine in a cooling cross-breeze. Feeling fancy? Go buck-wild and set up multiple fans throughout the room to make the airflow even more boisterous.

Go old-school. Remember when refrigerators were ice-boxes that contained actual blocks of ice? Us neither. This stay-cool trick is straight out of the icebox era, though. Make a DIY air conditioner by positioning a shallow pan or bowl (a roasting pan works nicely) full of ice in front of a fan. The breeze will pick up cold water from the ice's surface as it melts, creating a cooling mist.

KEEP FATS, OILS & GREASE Out Of Our Sewers

Fats, oils, and grease resulting from food preparation can build up in the sewer pipes and cause costly blockage and backups and sewage overflows to private and public property.



Tips to keep drains fat-free: Pour fats, oils, and grease into a container and store in the freezer, then put in the trash after it has hardened. Use paper towels to wipe greasy dishes before washing. Use sink strainers to catch food waste when washing.

Moving

If you are moving, please notify our office at 829-8726 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.

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 # _____ Expiration date: _____ Security code: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Brainerd Public Utilities with any questions: PO Box 373, Brainerd, MN 56401, or 218-829-8726

WRITTEN 30 DAY NOTICE NEEDED TO BE TAKEN OFF BANK DRAFT PAYMENT