

# The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remccom

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## Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The typical space heater operates at around 1,500 watts, so consumes around 1.5 kW per hour. This puts their operating cost at a little under 20 cents per hour. I agree, that sounds rather inexpensive for a little warmth, but multiply that by 12 hours of run time each day for 30 days and you have added approximately \$72 to your monthly electric bill. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency, energy needs and the added costs you're willing to pay for a warm spot in your home.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy (see article on page 17). Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a very efficient investment. Loose fill insulation typically costs about \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a

similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from any type of space heater.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns they pose, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills! Be sure to always read the small print on the manufacturer's box so that you don't have unusual expectations. These heaters can get costly quick!

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, visit our website at [remc.com](http://remc.com) for more ideas. As always, Rutherford EMC is here to help you manage your energy use year round.

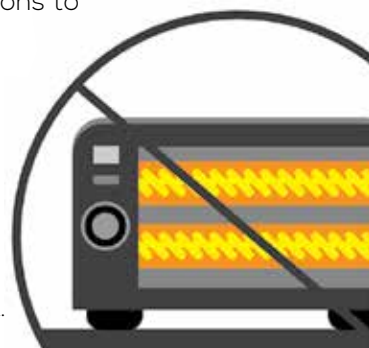
Source: Abby Berry of NRECA



## TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



## SWAP SHOP

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

### Mail your ads to:

Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569,  
Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at [cbailey@remc.com](mailto:cbailey@remc.com).  
No phone calls, please.

## FOR SALE

**Firewood** - \$75 per truck load; Quarts of local farm fresh honey, \$15; (3) US Mint silver sets, \$105; (10) silver quarters, \$70. 704-748-3258.

**Barrels** - metal burning barrels, \$10 ea.; solid top plastic drums, these make great dog or chicken houses, \$10 ea.; 15 gallon plastic drums w/solid top, \$20 ea.; 55 gal. feed barrels, \$20; Water totes \$75-\$100 ea. Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

**2017** Keystone Laredo 5th wheel camper; New inversion table, \$200; News set of gas logs, \$100 negotiable; California King bed frame, \$150. 828-430-6590.

**DeWalt** miter saw w/10" blade, only used once, cost \$350 + tax new at Lowe's, asking \$175. 828-625-2780.

**1989** Ford F250 Custom, regular cab truck, 4x4, 5 spd. transmission, 8' bed, 302 engine, needs work, no AC, clear title, 144,000 miles, has a camper shell, \$3,500 obo. Morganton, NC. 828-433-8337.

**Troybilt** Super Bronco riding mower w/42" cut, automatic transaxle, 19 HP Kohler engine, good cond., includes a dump yard cart, \$650 for both. 828-433-8337.

**1988** Chevrolet Silverado 2wd dually truck, regular cab, 454 engine, 4 spd. transmission, towing ready, has loose steering column, \$3,800. Morganton, NC. 828-433-8337.

**1974** Ford F250 regular cab 4x4 truck, 4 spd. transmission, Dana 60 rear end, 351-400 M engine, 8' bed, parts truck, no title, \$950. Morganton, NC. 828-433-8337.

**Cemetery** plot w/granite stone included at Westview Gardens in Bessemer City, NC, \$1,600. 704-685-2507.

**Craftsman** 10" table saw, 15 amp motor, used very little, ex. cond. w/owner's manual, \$150; old Sears portable electric 6 amp battery charger for 6 & 12 volt car batteries, have original box & owner's manual, works great, \$40. 828-448-0338.

**Bravo** NuWave XL oven/airfryer/dehydrator & meat

probe, complete w/paperwork, cookbook & trays for all functions, can send pictures upon request. 704-689-8258.

**Beautiful** framed oil painting of mountain scene w/ waterfall, measures 38"x38", can send pictures, \$40. 704-689-8258.

**Two** framed nautical themed oil paintings by a local Sunset Beach artist, measure 15" wide x 18" long, can send pictures, both for \$70. 704-689-8258.

**Vermont** Castings Resolute cast iron wood stove, ex. cond., \$900 obo. Morganton, NC area. 828-584-6525.

**Doberman** Pinschers - 3 months old; Miniature Sheltie pups. 828-334-4257.

**First** Choice finishing mower 48", GM30-48, runs off tractor pto, \$600; \$8" straight scrape & 48" box scrape, \$300 ea.; Generator - Black Max 8125, powered by a Honda engine, \$650; Sears Craftsman 10" 2.75 HP radial saw, \$200. 704-685-3821.

**Stackable** chairs, like new, \$30 ea. - 60 chairs w/ racks & tables. 828-863-2149 or 828-45-1577.

**1980's** vintage 26" Sony Trinitron TV inside an oak wood console, 36" wide x 30" tall x 20" deep, \$25. 704-860-4505.

**ONN** 43" class 4K UHD DLED Roku Smart TV, new & fully warranted, \$245 obo, HDR 2160p wireless streaming. 704-860-4505.

**2017** Thor Axis RV motor home - 25 ft. long, V-10 gas engine, 3,530 miles, automatic transmission, AC, good cond., \$65,000. 828-430-3391.

**(2)** Burial plots - each plot has 2 gravesites, located in Gaston Memorial Greenlawn Section. 704-922-8709.

**1999** Lance slide-in truck camper, weighs 1,120 lb., 11' 6" long, has Generac generator, canopies, add on canvas room, AC, propane heat w/2 30 gal. tanks included, ceiling fan, full bath w/designated shower, microwave, stove, propane and electric refrigerator, lots of storage, including a pantry, \$7,500. 828-234-9962.

**AKC** German Shepherd puppies - D.O.B. 11/11/21. Text 980-281-3811 for more details.

Harman Mobility outside scooter chair lift, \$200; Jazzy Elite ES scooter chair w/two new batteries, \$400; reclining lift chair - good condition, less than 2 weeks of use, \$175. Pictures available. 828-245-3595.

**Red** Kap work pants: 5 pair size 38/30, 1 pair size 38/32, 3 pair size 40/32, \$10 per pair, all new & blue in color; Lee regular fit jeans - 9 pair size 40/30, \$10 per pair, all new. 704-922-4359.

**C.K.C.** Yorkie/Poo's - 1 female & 3 males, D.O.B. May 12, 2021; 3 females & 2 males, D.O.B. June 17, 2021; Shih/Poo's - 1 male, 2 females, D.O.B. August 24, 2021; all tails docked, de-dew clawed, shots & worming's to date. 828-433-1374 or 828-320-8282.

**Crypts** (4) at Gaston Memorial Park in Gastonia, NC, Mausoleum D, Level D, \$7,000 ea. crypt, plus transfer fee if buy-

ing 1 or 4, new/unused. Bessemer City, NC. 704-626-0745.

**Electric** motor, 1/2 HP; 32 boxed end wrenches, \$90; router, \$40; 3 cordless drills, \$15 ea.; 117 pcs. of brass figurines, \$500; 12 Mrs. Butter Worth bottles from the 1960's, \$10 ea.; 3 iron kettles, \$25 ea.; 50 National Geographic magazines from the 1960's, \$150; plus other antique items. 980-241-3799.

**Antique** Saginaw recirculating automobile bumper jack in very good working cond., \$40; vintage 1983 Marantz Gold SR520 stereo receiver w/owner's & service manual, very good cond., \$75. 828-448-0338.

**Red** Oak lumber ranging from 5" - 17" wide x 8' in length, slab edge or rough cut edge, been stacked in dry for 15 years. Mill Spring, NC. 828-625-9260.

**Barcelona** Red A.R.E. fitted tonneau cover for pickup, fits beds approximately 61" long, original fitted for a 2010 Toyota Tacoma, \$600 negotiable. 828-803-7930.

**Dual** brand record turntable w/33, 45 & 78 RPM, accessories & dustcover included, Made in Germany, \$200; Sansui Model 771 stereo receiver, Made in Japan, \$200; Minolta SRT 201 35 mm camera w/many lenses including 28 mm wide angle & 200 mm telephoto & accessories, \$300. Polk County, NC. 828-894-2562.

**Church** pews/home benches in great condition: 18 unpadded, honey oak in color, 10' long; 5 light blue padded, 8 to 9' long, & 6 benches 7' long, cheap, will sale any amount. 704-450- 9901.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**For Sale or Rent:** 1 week at The Christie Lodge - All Suite Property/Beaver Creek, located in Avon, CO., 1 BR condo for rent, \$695 obo, sleeps 4, on site & close by amenities, just minutes from Vale, CO. w/easy transportation to the Denver Airport. Condo is also For Sale as a deeded property with annual use during Red Winter floating weeks, (mid-December to mid-April). 704-860-4505.

**FREE:** Several Black Walnut trees ranging 12 - 18" in height. Mill Spring, NC. 828-625-9260.

**Vacation** Time at N. Myrtle/Cherrygrove, (sleeps 15) or Nettles Island Resort in Florida, (sleeps 10). Both are waterfront, separate apartment's w/separate entrance and kitchen. 704-0450-9901.

## WANTED

**40** metal fence posts - prefer 7 ft. tall, but will settle for 6 footers. 828-863-2149.

**Nicely** equipped SUV or sedan car; car hauler or low-boy trailer; 4x4 tractor w/front end loader; a nice 4x4 truck. 828-334-0473.

**Brother** embroidery sewing machine in good working cond. 828-289-3905.

## *Rising 6th and 7th Graders, Get Ready for Camp!* **Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship to Attend Basketball Camp Free this Summer!**

Rutherford EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Middle school boys can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and middle school girls can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina

State University in Raleigh. These camps will take place in June 2022.

To apply, students must be either a rising sixth or seventh grade student. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The applications must be submitted by March 31. To learn more and apply, visit [ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps](http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps) or [remc.com](http://remc.com).



# Caulk Up the Savings

The greatest sources of heating and cooling losses in your home are often invisible air leaks. As a result, controlling air leaks provides the best way to extend the life of your home, conserve energy, save money, and increase comfort.

Bottom line? If you don't tighten up your home first, money spent on insulation may be wasted.

Fortunately, you can seal a lot of leaks around your home's exterior with less than \$100 worth of caulk. It's generally possible to seal openings up to one-quarter inch between window frames and siding or around door frames. For larger gaps, add a backing material before caulking, or use a spray foam sealant instead.

Most types of outdoor caulk are sold in tubes that fit a caulking gun. In addition, some caulks come in aerosol cans; they're a good choice for filling gaps up to one-half inch around pipes and wires.

When shopping for caulk, there are myriad choices. Prices range from a couple of dollars to several dollars per tube, so be sure to read the labels and choose a product that will adhere best to the materials you're sealing.

If your budget allows, spend a little more for a higher-quality caulk. Inexpensive caulks may last only a few years, while premium-priced caulks are rated for 20 years or more.

## Caulk like a Pro

- As a rule of thumb, you'll probably use half a cartridge per window or door and up to six cartridges for foundation work.
- The best time to apply caulk is during dry weather when outdoor temperatures are above 45 degrees. Low humidity is important during application to prevent cracks from swelling with moisture.
- If the gap you're sealing is too wide, use a special filler made for the purpose. You'll find fillers in the caulking department of your local hardware store or home center. However, note that fillers are not designed for exposure to the elements; so you'll need to caulk or seal over it.

- Before applying new caulk, remove the old caulk or paint residue with a putty knife, stiff brush, or special solvent.
- Make sure your work area is dry, so you won't seal in moisture.
- Caulk in a straight, continuous stream, avoiding stops and starts, and make sure the caulk sticks to both sides of the crack or seam.
- Send caulk to the bottom of an opening to avoid bubbles.
- Don't skimp. If the caulk shrinks, reapply it to form a smooth bead that completely seals the crack.
- If caulk oozes out of a crack, use a putty knife to push it back in.
- Once you've applied caulk, it takes time for it to dry, or cure. Curing time is described in two ways. The tack-free time tells you how quickly the fresh caulk's outer surface will dry or skin over. The total cure time indicates the time required for the caulk to become completely stable—or reach the point where no further drying or shrinking will occur.
- Don't allow pets and small children to come into contact with fresh caulk.

## Use expanding foam for large gaps

- Be sure to use the correct type of spray foam for the job. Polyurethane expandable spray foam works well around pipes and gaps around the foundation. However, this type of caulk expands with so much force that it can cause damage to window frames and door frames. In those spots, use a water-based spray foam specifically designed for the job.
- Expanding foam is ideal for filling cracks that caulks can't handle. It comes in aerosol cans and takes a short time to cure. The foam is very sticky and attaches itself quickly, so be prepared to pick up any messes fast.

Find more ways to seal your home and save at [EnergySavers.gov](https://www.energy.gov) OR [TogetherWeSave.com](https://www.togetherwesave.com).

Source: Robert A. Dickleman of NRECA

**Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly HALF OF YOUR HOME'S ENERGY USE? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with BIG ENERGY SAVINGS.**

*\*Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 \*Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent - Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



### MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Caulk • Caulk gun • Knife or tool to cut • Rags • Water

**PREP.** Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk.

Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.

**LOAD.** You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun.

Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

**APPLY.** To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought.

Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

**RELEASE.** Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

**CLEAN.** Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.



# Five Ways to Save Energy When Working from Home

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1. **Use a smart power strip.** Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.
2. **Unplug your least-used equipment.** If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.
3. **Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment.** If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most energy efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.
4. **Flip the switch and use natural light instead.** It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in—and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!

5. **Lower the thermostat.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler in your home, so all the more reason to mind the thermostat.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Source: Abby Berry of NRECA



*When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light into your workspace.*



## Tackling Those Home Improvement Projects May Have Gotten Just a Little Easier

Apply for an Energy Efficiency Loan with Electel

Did you know that Rutherford EMC members are eligible for membership with Electel Cooperative Federal Credit Union? Electel is an ideal source for financing energy efficiency related projects as well as products for your home. Loans are available for many residential improvements that may save you energy and money.

The energy efficiency loans are primarily available to residential dwelling property owners only. This may include family residences, duplexes, and owner-occupied condominiums. Energy efficient improvements may include electric heat pumps, weather stripping, electric/solar water heaters, insulation, windows, doors, and other solar or energy star related items. Apply for membership today at [electel.org](https://electel.org) or call them at 1-800-849-5600 and see what they have to offer you!