



UNLOCK COMFORT *and* SAVINGS

Consider adding home weatherization to your summer to-do list. While we often think about weatherizing our homes during the winter when we feel the chill from windows and drafty doors, it actually provides comfort and energy savings year-round. This is especially beneficial during the summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

1. Energy Efficiency and Savings

According to energystar.gov, a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home, which is essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

2. Simple Weatherization Strategies

Air Sealing Around Windows

- Inspect for air leaks:
 - Look for daylight around the frame.
 - Check if windows rattle easily or have small cracks.
- Apply new caulk if necessary:
 - Remove old caulk and clean the area.
 - Use about half a cartridge of caulk per window.
 - Silicone caulk is a popular choice; use leftover caulk to seal joints in bathrooms and kitchens.

Installing Weatherstripping Around Exterior Doors

Weatherstripping is another simple but effective weatherization project. Common types include V-channel, felt, and foam tape. To choose the best type for your home, consider temperature fluctuations and weather exposure. Most homeowners

opt for felt or foam tape; both are easy to install but need replacement every couple of years, depending on wear and tear.

- Install weatherstripping around the top and sides of doors.
- If daylight is visible around the bottom of the door, install a door sweep. Door sweeps come in aluminum, plastic, vinyl, and felt options.
- Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically on the sides of double-hung or sliding windows, or around the window sash.

For step-by-step instructions and video tutorials, check out trusted websites like [Lowes.com](https://www.lowes.com) or [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov).

3. Improving Home Comfort with Insulation

Another way to improve comfort in your home is by adding insulation. While this project is more costly and typically requires professional help,

it's highly effective in decreasing heat flow, thus impacting energy use in both winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to replace outdated materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

4. Additional Benefits of Air Sealing

In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you:

- Avoid moisture control issues.
- Improve indoor air quality.
- Extend the life of your heating and cooling system.

Weatherizing your home unlocks year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs. By addressing air leaks and improving insulation, you can ensure a more energy-efficient and comfortable living environment.



Line Items

Joseph Jones
Editor

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When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
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Energy Scams

Consumers with water, gas, and electricity connections have long been targets for utility scams. In today's digital world, every swipe and click increases this risk. Scammers have become more sophisticated, adapting their tactics to trick unsuspecting consumers through various methods.

Excelsior EMC wants to help you avoid energy scams that could lead to financial loss or a leak of personal information. This month, we're sharing updates on the latest utility scams and tips to help you stay safe.

Recent Utility Scams

Scammers often disguise themselves as utility employees or representatives to steal money or personal information. A common trick is to claim a bill is past due and threaten to disconnect service unless immediate payment is made. Scammers use phone calls, text messages, emails, and even in-person visits, but digital attacks are increasingly common.

New technologies like caller ID spoofing make it appear that calls are from trusted sources, making it harder to verify authenticity. Another scam involves fraudulent websites that mimic utility payment pages, often promoted on search engines to trick consumers into making payments. Additionally, scammers may contact you claiming you overpaid your bill and will receive a cash or banking refund, which is a ploy to steal personal information.

Spotting a Scam

Watch for these red flags to identify a scam:

- High-pressure tactics creating a sense of urgency, such as immediate service disconnection threats.
- Requests for unusual payment methods, like gift cards or cryptocurrency.
- Poor grammar, spelling errors, and odd email addresses in digital communications.

What Excelsior EMC Will (and Won't) Do

Excelsior EMC will never:

- Demand immediate payment and threaten service disconnection without prior notice.
- Ask for your Social Security number or banking details over the phone or through email.

We offer secure payment options, including in-person, at www.excelsioremc.com, bank draft, through the Excelsior EMC app, and over the phone at (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123.

Avoiding Scams

Be suspicious of anyone claiming to be an Excelsior EMC employee requesting banking or personal information. We will only send text messages if you have opted in for alerts about high usage, due bills, or other notifications from our text alert system.

If you suspect a scam, call us at (912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123. Excelsior EMC aims to protect you and our community against utility fraud. By notifying us about potential scams, you help create the first line of defense. Report any potential scams so we can spread the word and prevent others from falling victim.

The Excelsior EMC app now shows daily load management status on the home screen. No login is required.



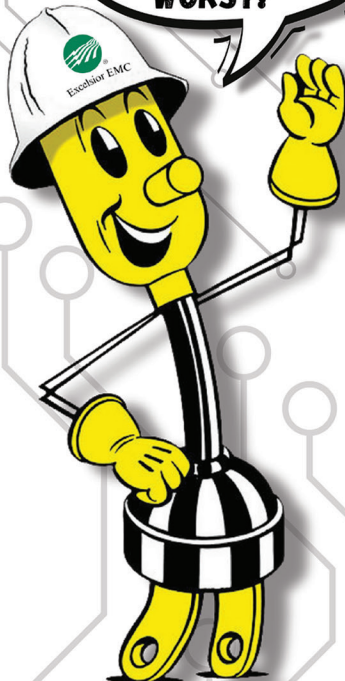
Every Member Counts

HURRICANE SEASON PREPAREDNESS

• PREPARING YOUR HOME

- **SECURE OR BRING INSIDE OUTDOOR ITEMS, SUCH AS LAWN FURNITURE AND TRASH CANS, THAT COULD BE PICKED UP BY HIGH WINDS AND HURT SOMEONE.**
- **ANCHOR OBJECTS THAT WOULD BE UNSAFE TO BRING INSIDE, SUCH AS GAS GRILLS AND PROPANE TANKS.**
- **TRIM OR REMOVE TREES CLOSE ENOUGH TO FALL ON YOUR HOME.**
- **REVIEW INSURANCE POLICIES WITH YOUR AGENCY.**
- **ENSURE YOUR GENERATOR IS RUNNING PROPERLY.**

**HOPE FOR THE
BEST.
PREPARE FOR THE
WORST!**



HURRICANE EMERGENCY KIT

- **FIRST AID KIT**
- **FLASHLIGHT**
- **EXTRA BATTERIES**
- **CASH**
- **BATTERY POWERED RADIO**
- **PERSONAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES**
- **IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**
- **SOLAR/BATTERY PHONE CHARGER**
- **3-DAY SUPPLY OF NON-PERISHABLE FOOD AND WATER**
- **MEDICATIONS**
- **EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES FOR EACH FAMILY MEMBER**



Excelsior EMC

WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key.

1. When possible, use _____ operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
2. If you hear _____ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
3. Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
4. All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept _____.
5. Never handle electrical devices if you are _____ from swimming or other water activities.



WORD BANK

electrical
dry
battery
wet
thunder



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