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### Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test by closing the door over a piece of paper, half in and half out. If you can pull the paper out easily, the latch may need adjustment or the seal may need replacing.

# What's Current

AUGUST 2024

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL ENERGY TIPS:

The kids are heading back-to-school, which usually means fewer people are at home during the day. To save energy dollars, follow these four tips:

### 1. Unplug devices.

Reduce “phantom” energy use by unplugging video game consoles, televisions or computers that are not used during the day. You can also plug these devices into one power strip and simply turn it off before you leave the house.

### 2. Adjust the thermostat.

During warmer months, you can increase the temperature a few degrees when the house is empty during the day, or decrease it when cool weather starts. Want to make it even easier to save energy? Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature.

### 3. Close (or open) the blinds.

Before you leave the house for the day, close blinds on sun-facing windows to reduce heat buildup. When the weather starts to get cool, open blinds and allow sunlight in to reduce energy use on heating.

### 4. Close your refrigerator.

When preparing dinner or making school lunches for the next day, take out everything you need at one time and close the refrigerator door to reduce energy costs.

For more energy-saving tips, **visit [novec.com/save](https://novec.com/save)**



## LEARN HOW TO AVOID ELECTRIC UTILITY SCAMS

NOVEC wants all customers to protect themselves by being aware of scammer tactics.

Someone claiming to be from NOVEC or another utility company may call you, email you, or knock on your door. The person may wear an authentic-looking uniform and may even have business cards — but they could be an imposter trying to scam you.

Scammers demand that you pay right away. They instruct people to call a number they provide to make a payment, but the message you hear could be a manipulated recording of a message from a real utility company. If you ask questions or resist paying, the imposter threatens to shut off your power.

### Things to know:

- NOVEC will never ask or require you to purchase a prepaid debit card to avoid disconnection.
- NOVEC sends customers with delinquent accounts an advance disconnection notice with the regular monthly bill — never a single notice shortly before disconnecting service.

If you suspect someone is trying to scam you, call the local police and then call NOVEC at 703-335-0500.

Learn more at [novec.com/scams](https://novec.com/scams) and how to identify real NOVEC employees and contractors at [novec.com/whosonmyproperty](https://novec.com/whosonmyproperty).

## NOVEC'S 2024 ANNUAL MEETING IS NEXT MONTH

The business meeting begins at 6 p.m. NOVEC Board Chairman Wade House, and President and CEO Dave Schleicher will give year-in-review presentations. This year's uncontested District 4 and District 5 election results will be formally announced at the meeting. (See the district map at [novec.com/bod](https://novec.com/bod).)

You can also visit [novec.com/annualmeeting](https://novec.com/annualmeeting) or call NOVEC's Customer Care Center at 703-335-0500 for details and updates prior to the meeting. The business meeting format will not include dinner, displays, or prizes.

**When:** 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2024

**Where:** NOVEC Gainesville Technical Center  
5399 Wellington Branch Dr.  
Gainesville, VA 20155

## NOVEC OFFICE CLOSURE

### Monday, Sept. 2, 2024

NOVEC offices will be closed for Labor Day.

*Our system control center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, even on holidays. To report outages, visit [novec.com](https://novec.com) or call 703-335-0500.*

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, remember to practice electrical safety in the classroom *and* at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.

*Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double check your answers in the key.*



**ACROSS:**

1. Never insert anything other than this into an electrical outlet.
4. When outdoors, stay away from these big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

**DOWN**

1. Never play around these when you're outside; you can get hurt!
2. Don't yank on a \_\_\_\_\_ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
3. Always make sure your hands are \_\_\_\_\_ before plugging anything in.

**ANSWER KEY**

1. ACROSS: PLUG  
2. DOWN: POWER LINES  
3. DOWN: DRY  
4. ACROSS: TRANSFORMER