

# CURRENTS

## JNEC's June 2024 Newsletter



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### Unlock Comfort and Savings

If you're working on your summer to-dos, consider adding home weatherization to your list. We typically think about weatherizing our homes during winter months when we're standing next to a chilly window or a drafty exterior door. But weatherizing your home provides comfort and energy savings year-round, especially during summer months when your air conditioner is working overtime.

According to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov), a home with insufficient insulation and air leaks wastes more than 20% of the energy used to heat or cool the home--that's essentially throwing money out the door. Fortunately, most weatherization projects are easy to DIY and can be completed in a day.

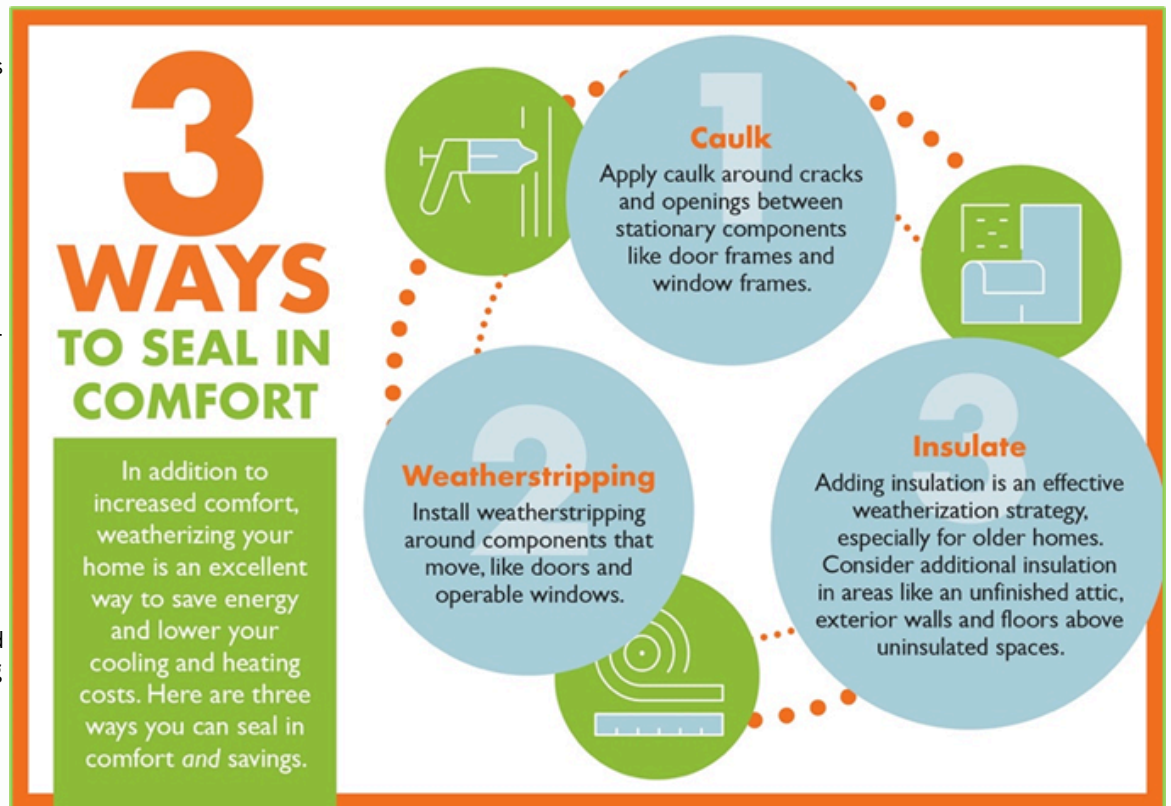
The simplest and most cost-effective weatherization strategies include air sealing around windows and exterior doors. If you have older windows, odds are you have air escaping through tiny cracks and gaps around the frame. Do a quick visual inspection. If you can see any daylight around the frame or the windows rattle easily, you likely have air leaks. Also check for any small cracks around the frame that may not be visible with sunlight. If you suspect you have leaky windows and plan to apply new caulk, be sure to remove the old caulk and clean the area well before application. Caulking materials vary in strength and properties, but you'll likely need a half-cartridge per window. Silicone caulk is a popular choice and can also be used to seal joints between bathroom and kitchen fixtures. If you have any leftover caulk, use it to seal those areas.

Another effective but simple weatherization project is installing weatherstripping around exterior doors. The most common types of weatherstripping options are 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 options are easy to install but will need to be replaced every couple years, depending on wear and tear. Weatherstripping should be installed around the top and sides of the door. If you see daylight around the bottom of an exterior door, consider installing a door sweep in addition to weatherstripping.

Door sweeps are available in aluminum, plastic, vinyl and felt options. Weatherstripping can also be installed around windows, typically to the sides of a double hung or sliding window, or around the window sash. If you're unsure how to install weatherstripping or apply caulk, check out trusted websites like [Lowe.com](http://Lowe.com) or [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) for step-by-step instructions and video tutorials.

Another way to improve comfort in your home is adding insulation. While this is a more costly project and requires a professional's help, it's an effective way to decrease heat flow, which impacts energy use in winter and summer months. Older homes may need additional insulation to either replace older materials or meet newer efficiency standards. Contact a qualified installation specialist if you suspect your home's insulation levels are inadequate.

In addition to saving energy, air sealing can help you avoid moisture control issues, improve indoor air quality and extend the life of your heating and cooling system. Weatherize your home to unlock year-round comfort and savings on monthly energy costs.



# Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

IF YOU ARE UNDER A HURRICANE WARNING, FIND SAFE SHELTER RIGHT AWAY.

## When a hurricane is 36 hours from arriving

- Turn on your TV or radio in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include food and water sufficient for at least three days, medications, a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies. <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

## When a hurricane is 18-36 hours from arriving

- Bookmark your city or county website for quick access to storm updates and emergency instructions.
- Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.

## When a hurricane is 6-18 hours from arriving

- Turn on your TV/radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case you lose power.

## When a hurricane is 6 hours from arriving

- If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.
- Close storm shutters, and stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you.
- Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.

## Survive DURING

- If told to evacuate, do so immediately. Do not drive around barricades.
- If sheltering during high winds, go to a FEMA safe room, ICC 500 storm shelter, or a small, interior, windowless room or hallway on the lowest floor that is not subject to flooding.
- If trapped in a building by flooding, go to the highest level of the building. Do not climb into a closed attic. You may become trapped by rising flood water.

## Be Safe AFTER

- Listen to authorities for information and special instructions.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off electricity at the main breaker or fuse box to prevent electric shock.
- Avoid wading in flood water, which can contain dangerous debris. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.



# JNEC

JASPER-NEWTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: [homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)



# Guía para la Preparación de Huracanes

SI ESTÁ BAJO UN AVISO DE HURACÁN, ENCUENTRE REFUGIO SEGURO DE INMEDIATO.

## Cuando un huracán está a 36 horas de llegar

- Encienda su televisor o radio para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Reponga su equipo de preparación para emergencias. Incluya alimentos y agua suficientes para al menos tres días, medicamentos, una linterna, pilas, dinero en efectivo y suministros de primeros auxilios. <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>

## Cuando un huracán está a 18-36 horas de llegar

- Marque el sitio web de su ciudad o condado para el acceso rápido de las actualizaciones de tormentas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Traiga adentro objetos sueltos y ligeros que puedan convertirse en proyectiles con vientos fuertes (por ejemplo, muebles de patio, botes de basura); sujete objetos que no son seguros para llevar adentro (por ejemplo, tanques de propano); y recorte o retire los árboles que están lo suficientemente cerca como para caer en el edificio.

## Cuando un huracán está a 6-18 horas de llegar

- Encienda su televisor / radio, o visite el sitio web de su ciudad / condado cada 30 minutos para obtener las últimas actualizaciones meteorológicas e instrucciones de emergencia.
- Cargue su teléfono celular ahora para que tenga una batería llena en caso de que pierda energía.

## Cuando un huracán está a 6 horas de llegar

- Si no se encuentra en un área recomendada para la evacuación, planifique quedarse en su casa o donde se encuentra y avise a sus amigos y familiares dónde se encuentra.
- Cierre las contraventanas y manténgase alejado de las ventanas. Los vidrios que vuelan de las ventanas rotas podrían dañarlo.
- Gire su refrigerador o congelador a la posición más fría y ábralos solo cuando sea necesario. Si pierde la energía, la comida durará más tiempo. Mantenga un termómetro en el refrigerador para poder verificar la temperatura de los alimentos cuando se restaure la energía.

## Sobrevivir DURANTE

- Si se le indica que evacue, hágalo inmediatamente. No maneje alrededor de las barricadas.
- Si se refugia durante vientos fuertes, vaya a una habitación segura de FEMA, refugio contra tormentas ICC 500 o una habitación o pasillo pequeño e interior sin ventanas en el piso más bajo que no esté sujeto a inundaciones.
- Si queda atrapado en un edificio por inundación, vaya al nivel más alto del edificio. No suba a un ático cerrado. Usted puede quedar atrapado por las crecientes inundaciones.

## Sea Seguro DESPUÉS

- Escuche a las autoridades para obtener información e instrucciones especiales.
- No toque el equipo eléctrico si está mojado o si está parado en el agua. Si es seguro hacerlo, apague la electricidad en el interruptor principal o en la caja de fusibles para evitar una descarga eléctrica.
- Evite vadearse en el agua de la inundación, que puede contener desechos peligrosos. Las líneas eléctricas subterráneas o caídas también pueden cargar el agua eléctricamente.

